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Inter-Arab Affairs

Five-Way Meeting 'Most Likely' Set for 20 Oct

JN0810160191 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 7 Oct 91 p 1

[Text] Cairo—Informed diplomatic sources in Cairo have said that it is most likely that the meeting of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine will be held on 20 October in Damascus. AL-ITTIHAD has also learned that contacts are under way between the five countries to change the proposed summit meeting, which is expected to convene prior to the Middle East peace conference, to a meeting at ministerial level only.

Arab League's Al-Majid Views Peace Process

PM0810161191 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Oct 91 p 3

[Interview with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Matar] How would you assess what has been achieved in the peace process in the Middle East?

['Abd-al-Majid] The U.S. side is clearly serious about proceeding with the peace process. President Bush's position and Secretary of State Baker's contacts, interest in the continuing meetings, and shuttle visits to the Middle East have been clear and specific. That is with regard to the need to convene the conference. All these things represent encouraging indications with regard to the convening of the conference.

There is also the positive new element represented by the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council convened in Algiers and the positive positions resulting from the meetings vis-a-vis the Palestinian role in that process.

As for the Israeli side, the hope is that it will not be the elements which will obstruct the conference. And without a doubt the picture is being completed now. The U.S. secretary of state will make a new tour of the region to provide the so-called U.S. assurances, which makes us look at the situation with some guarded optimism. We hope that the negotiations will begin. And it must be clear to us that, if they do begin, the battle will be long and any party may take positions that delay or obstruct the negotiations. This is why eagerness to make the negotiations a success must be the aim of all the parties. This is my view with regard to the present situation.

[Matar] Do you believe that the Palestinian position has advanced according to what is required, or do the Palestinians still have to offer more?

['Abd-al-Majid] The Palestinian position is to a large extent coordinated with the Arab position agreed upon at the Arab League Council meetings held in Cairo in September. As you know, the Arab League ministerial council issued a resolution welcoming the conference. And the Palestinian delegation was present.

In the light of what has been published and what we know from the Palestinian brothers, the Palestinian position is positive and flexible. It authorizes the Central Council to make the necessary arrangements. This is clear in the support which the Palestinian position has received from many circles.

[Matar] What about Palestinian representation?

['Abd-al-Majid] Let us leave that question to the contacts which will take place, whose axis is the Palestinian delegation question.

[Matar] What is the acceptable minimum to make the peace process a success?

['Abd-al-Majid] We must be convinced that the peace process is inevitable and necessary. If we are convinced of that, we will all work to make the peace process a success, and any negotiator should work to make negotiations a success, not to thwart or hamper them.

What is required first is the conviction that we are proceeding on a road leading us to peace and that we need peace. This request is vital and legitimate with regard to the region and the peoples of the region as a whole, including Israel.

[Matar] And what about the results?

['Abd-al-Majid] We should not rush matters.

[Matar] What I am saying is that the peace process is based on Resolutions 242 and 338.

['Abd-al-Majid] And exchanging land for peace.

[Matar] And exchanging land for peace. So, can any peace process succeed without Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories?

['Abd-al-Majid] The withdrawal is fundamental. If Israel is talking about security for its own territory, the occupation of territories does not achieve that security. That security can be achieved through different security arrangements that do not include the occupation of territories.

[Matar] And that means a complete Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories?

['Abd-al-Majid] That is the clear Arab position.

[Matar] Are the Americans working within that framework?

['Abd-al-Majid] You rush things.... I am not now negotiating on behalf of the United States or the Palestinians. I am giving you what I believe is my impression. Many things will be discussed at the negotiations. [passage omitted]

[Matar] Do you believe that the Arab states are working seriously to overcome the problems?

['Abd-al-Majid] I believe that the Arab states are serious. If we see some kind of condition emerging, we must work to surmount it. Obviously the Gulf war created that known crack. Perhaps it is this that makes me say there is a difficult—but not impossible—task ahead of the Arab League.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Reaches Agreement on Joint Delegation

TA0810151091 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 8 Oct 91 pp 1, 11

[Exclusive report by Basim Sakkijha]

[Excerpt] Amman—Palestinian sources have said that Jordan and the PLO drafted a joint working paper during the meetings a PLO delegation held with Jordanian officials at the beginning of the week.

The sources added that the two sides reached agreement in principle on the issue of the joint delegation, which will be announced during PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's upcoming visit to Amman, expected to take place following U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's trip to the region.

These sources said that the two sides also agreed to insist that Jerusalem be included in the peace negotiations from the outset; that there be a linkage between the two stages of the negotiations; that the interim period be determined so that international forces would be deployed during this period to protect the Palestinians' political and economic rights; and that the Palestinians be provided the means to exercise their right to self-determination and to decide their political future on Palestinian territory.

The sources added that the two sides also agreed that the authority of the joint delegation's Palestinian part would come from the PLO. [passage omitted]

Tripartite Talks Set for Nov

PM0810145591 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Oct 91 p 3

[Muhammad 'Allam report: "Sha'th Tells AL-HAYAH: Palestinian-Israeli-Arab Meeting in Cairo Next Month"]

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and member of Fatah Central Committee, has revealed that a tripartite Palestinian-Israeli-Arab meeting will be held in Cairo in November. The meeting is being organized and prepared by the EC and the Egyptian Government, which will both participate in it. He pointed out that the two quarters organizing the meeting have sent invitations to 20 Israeli political figures, 20 Palestinians, and a similar number of Arabs from the states which will participate as principal parties or as observers at the peace conference on the Middle East.

He also revealed a preparatory meeting which was held in Cairo in July between him and Israeli politicians under Egyptian sponsorship. He pointed out that a change in the PLO's position toward Israel will take place within the peace measures as part of a general agreement leading to a change in the charters and constitutions of the region's states.

In this context AL-HAYAH has learned that there are Egyptian-European contacts with Israel for the participation of Israeli officials from the ruling Likud Bloc in the anticipated meeting.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH in the Egyptian capital yesterday, Sha'th said that the PLO received a reply from the U.S. Administration after Egyptian mediation in favor of resuming the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue in Cairo and after flexible progress in the Palestine National Council [PNC] and the departure of Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas] from the Executive Committee. The summary of the reply is as follows: "The dialogue was not cut off. It is frozen temporarily, and its resumption is a matter of time." He emphasized that "a secret dialogue is being conducted between the PLO and the United States and will be announced openly soon."

Sha'th emphasized that U.S. President George Bush did not object and actually received—during his meeting in Washington with King Hassan II of Morocco last week—a message from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat in which he stressed the right to self-determination.

He pointed out that President Bush's declared position, as he conveyed it to King Hassan, emphasized for the first time the Palestinian people and political rights, and that the final settlement will broach other resolutions issued by the UN General Assembly, that is Resolution 191 on repatriation and compensations.

Sha'th also pointed out that the phrase "Palestinian people" accompanied by "political rights" means in UN conventions the right to self-determination.

On coordination among the ring [frontline] states—Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine—he emphasized the existence of a dialogue among the five parties in order to move to a five-way summit formula before the peace conference is convened. He ruled out discussion of the subject of Israeli-Arab relations without Arab coordination, for example. He described King Hassan II's meeting with the foreign ministers of the ring states and the other states which will participate in the conference as observers as "a qualitative shift necessary for coordination."

Sha'th also emphasized the need for the level of coordination to coincide with the progress toward the peace

conference, in order to prevent any time lag during which one problem might be resolved in isolation from another.

On Baker's meeting with Faysal al-Husayni and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi Sha'th said that the meeting will discuss the agreement on the criteria for choosing members of the Palestinian delegation to the conference and the basis on which members of the delegation will be selected.

He pointed out that the PLO will not name any members before the criteria are agreed. He said that presenting names now would be tantamount to a "magnet" for an Israeli "veto," which we either have to accept and thus make a heavy concession or reject and thus grant Israel the opportunity to torpedo the conference.

Sha'th spoke about "red lines" beyond which the Palestinian negotiator at that meeting cannot go, namely the demand for halting settlement and Jerusalem's representation. He expressed the Palestinian's desire to negotiate through goodwill. He said that "the settlements are a serious test for President Bush, and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter had failed the test."

Sha'th demanded an advanced U.S. position that would settle the "vague points" in the U.S. assurances letter, just as progress has occurred with regard to the U.S. position on Jerusalem and the right to self-determination.

On the split in the Palestinian position inside [the occupied territories] with regard to the PNC resolutions, Sha'th said that it is natural because of the feeling of mistrust in the United States and Israel, which Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is exploiting. He stressed that dialogue is continuing with the movement to unify the position inside and outside.

On President Bush's call for UN abrogation of a resolution which regards Zionist as a form of racism, the Palestinian official said that the "it is not a matter of granting certificates of historical spotlessness." He ruled out the abrogation of the resolution without something in return and before the abrogation of the Israeli racist decisions against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories right back to 1948 Palestine.

*Gaza, West Bank Poll on Peace Conference

92AE0004A Jerusalem AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI in Arabic 14 Sep 91 pp 9-12

[Article: "Palestinian Public Opinion Poll: Relative Majority of Occupied Territories' Palestinians Support Participation in Proposed Peace Conference; Main Support for Conference Is in Gaza Strip, Hebron, and Bethlehem and Main Opposition in Jerusalem, Ramallah, and Nabulus; 63 Percent Oppose Creation of Palestinian Government in Exile at Present Time; Overwhelming Majority Does not Trust That U.S. Position on Peace Is Serious; Nearly Two-thirds of Occupied Territories' Palestinians Support Free Political Elections; Two-thirds Palestinians Oppose Continued Meetings With Baker; 93 Percent Do not Trust U.S. Administration and Majority Opposes Meeting With Baker"]

[Text] Introduction: In the decisive moments that need firm leadership decisions, any leadership has to refer to public opinion and to its people to explore their directions and opinions on the projected fateful issues.

AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI has refused but to be partial to the masses, thus continuing, in this regard, its history, which has witnessed more than one statistical opinion poll to determine public opinion.

In view of the serious phase through which the Palestinian issue is passing, and of the lack of complete national unity while we are at the threshold of the call for a regional peace conference, the Palestinian leadership's decision to convene the PNC [Palestine National Council] prior to the peace conference constitutes a responsible step.

Therefore, and in order that AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI could present the trends of the Palestinian political scene to our people's sons, a statistical opinion poll had to be taken of random samples of the occupied territories' various professions, businesses, towns, villages, and refugee camps, without excluding any educational level of either of the two sexes.

To ensure that the poll is comprehensive, AL-BAYADIR assigned individuals from outside the establishment to supervise the distribution and filling out of the forms by letting them tour various streets in the occupied territories' towns, villages and refugee camps at various times of the day, without prior instruction to any individual.

To stress accuracy and objectivity, none of the establishment's employees filled out a single form.

When all 1,734 forms were filled out, Dr. Salim al-Zu'bi, who holds a Ph.D. in computer sciences, was summoned to supervise the unloading and refining of the data outside the establishment, without the participation of anybody from AL-BAYADIR. We now present to you the general results of this poll and we promise to provide you with more detailed tables in future issues, hoping that we have performed our mission ideally in terms of accuracy and honesty, so that we can make objective conclusions that make it easier for our people's sons to acquaint themselves with the trends of Palestinian public opinion.

A Reading of Statistical Poll's General Outcome

From an initial reading of the main table of the poll results, the reader emerges with the obvious following observations as a consequence of the answers given to the questions:

- 48.6 percent of those polled support participation in the proposed peace conference, and 46.7 percent reject this conference.

- 30.8 percent support the creation of a Palestinian government in exile, whereas 63.4 percent reject such a government.
- 93.1 percent are not confident that the U.S. peace efforts are serious, whereas 3.8 percent are confident that they are.
- 34 percent support continued meetings between Palestinian notables and Baker, whereas 61.4 percent reject the continuation of these meetings.
- 63.7 percent of those included in the poll support the holding of free political elections in the occupied territories, and 30.7 percent oppose such elections.

On the basis of these obvious observations, the process of the logical linkage and harmonization of the answers—a process which confirms the accuracy of the statistical results—can be felt in the following conclusions:

First conclusion: Of those included in the poll, the absolute majority—93.1 percent—of those who voiced lack of trust in the U.S. credibility expressed this opinion in response to the question concerning continuation of the Palestinian-U.S. meetings. A 61.4-percent majority of those polled rejected such continuation.

Second conclusion: Those who support free political elections that ultimately produce true representatives of the Palestinian people at home amount to 63 percent, which is almost equal to the percentage of those who reject the meetings with Baker. Meanwhile, 34 percent, or nearly the same percentage as those who reject elections in the occupied territories, support such meetings. Here, an inverse equation emerges and it is to the effect that:

"The more the percentage of those who reject the meeting with Baker grows, the greater becomes the percentage of those who support free elections."

Third conclusion: Despite the absolute majority's lack of trust in U.S. credibility and its rejection of the Baker meetings with Palestinian notables, the percentage (48.4 percent) of those who support the regional peace conference (a U.S. initiative) is a little higher than those who reject it (46 percent).

This can only be interpreted as a reflection of the Palestinian concept that one must "chase a scoundrel to his doorstep" as long as the Palestinian people are confident that they will accept nothing less than their rights, in which they believe and which, they believe, others will not offer on a silver platter. This is evident in the Palestinians' view of U.S. credibility, considering that the United States is the most powerful and dominant force in this conference.

Fourth conclusion: It concerns the percentage of the majority that rejects the creation of a government in exile at the present time (63.4 percent). The significance of this is that the outcome of this poll may help clarify the picture to the Palestinian leaders feuding over this concept, which is not currently desirable at the popular level.

In the midst of Palestinian talk about participation in the peace conference, the poll results have not given any of the parties in the current conflict over a number of important issues in the Palestinian arena any reason to think that the results favor him in any way. In their entirety, the results represent a common denominator accredited by the masses, whose aspirations are reflected in the various sections of the poll.

Those who reject the Baker meetings, who do not trust U.S. credibility, or who do not support the creation of a government in exile, cannot extend this position to include rejection of the peace conference, considering that the outcome favors participation in the conference.

At the same time, we cannot consider the approval of political elections at home a result of a certain tendency dominating the scene. If this were the case, the results of such a tendency would have been reflected in the issue of participation in the conference. This approval has come as a result of the conviction that necessity dictates the election of legitimate political representatives as long as the world insists on dealing with the Palestinians at home, even if this is done through individuals who are not elected and who do not represent a popular force.

Generally, the poll reflects a mature image of the Palestinian masses' dealing with various issues. This bolsters the Palestinian leadership's confidence in the strength of any decision it makes to safeguard or to achieve national rights.

General Observations on Positions of Various Segments in Poll

A detailed reading of the various districts' answers to the five questions of the AL-BAYADIR poll leads an observer to the following observations:

First, support for participation in the regional conference figures prominently in the following areas in particular: Hebron, 59.7 percent; Bethlehem, 56.7 percent; and Gaza Strip, 54.8 percent. Meanwhile, opposition was concentrated in the areas of Ramallah, 60.8 percent; Jerusalem, 54 percent; and Nabulus, 51.7 percent.

Second, it is evident from results produced by the computer under the supervision of Dr. Salim al-Zu'bi, that support for participation in the peace conference recorded its highest percentage among professionals and farmers, whereas clergymen have especially voiced opposition, 64.7 percent, followed by students, 54.8 percent.

Third, there was no difference between the sexes, or between town, village, or refugee camp in the percentage of support or opposition. Moreover, the majority of those supporting the conference are older than 30 and those opposing are younger than 30.

Fourth, as for the Palestinian notables' meeting with U.S. Secretary Baker, the opposition has been concentrated in Jerusalem area, 74.6 percent; Ramallah, 67.7 percent; and Nabulus, 64 percent. Support for continued meetings with Baker has been shown by Hebron, 47.1 percent; and the [Gaza] Strip, 40 percent.

Fifth, opposition to the creation of a government in exile is focused in the areas of Bethlehem, 70.2 percent; Jerusalem, 68.3 percent; and Tulkarm and Janin, 66.2 percent.

Sixth, support for elections is almost equal in all districts.

Main Table on Poll Outcome

	No Answer		Yes		No		No Opinion		Total	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
First Question	2	0.1	642	48.6	810	46.7	80	4.6	1,734	100
Second Question	6	0.3	556	3.8	1,100	63.4	94	5.4	1,734	100
Third Question	9	0.5	66	3.8	1,615	93.1	44	2.5	1,734	100
Fourth Question	1	0.1	589	34	1,065	61.4	79	4.6	1,734	100
Fifth Question	9	0.5	1,104	63.7	532	30.7	89	5.1	1,734	100

Question One: Do You Demand That PNC Agree to Participation in Proposed Peace Conference?

Response Was as Follows:

	Number	Percent
No Response	2	0.1
Yes	642	48.6
No	810	46.7
No Opinion	80	4.6
Total	1,734	100

Question Two: Do You Support Idea of Forming Palestinian Government in Exile?

Response Was as Follows:

	Number	Percent
No Response	6	0.3
Yes	556	30.8
No	1,100	63.4
No Opinion	94	5.4
Total	1,734	100

Question Three: Do You Trust That U.S. Administration Endeavor for Peace Is Serious?

Response Was as Follows:

	Number	Percent
No Response	9	0.5
Yes	66	3.8
No	1,615	93.1
No Opinion	44	2.5
Total	1,734	100

Question Four: Do You Support Continued Meetings Between Baker and Palestinian Notables From Occupied Territories?

Response Was as Follows:

	Number	Percent
No Response	1	0.1
Yes	589	34
No	1,065	61.4
No Opinion	79	4.6
Total	1,734	100

Question Five: Do You Support Holding Free Political Elections in Occupied Territories

Response Was as Follows:

	Number	Percent
No Response	9	0.5
Yes	1,104	63.7
No	532	30.7
No Opinion	89	5.1
Total	1,734	100

Table 1. Distribution of Number and Percentage of Participants by Profession

	Number	Percent
Unemployed	58	3.3
Laborer	195	11.2
Student	372	21.5
Professional	331	19.1
Clergy	34	2

Table 1. Distribution of Number and Percentage of Participants by Profession (Continued)

	Number	Percent
Employee	521	30
Teacher	92	5.3
Farmer	46	2.7
Housewife	85	4.9
Total	1,734	100

Table 2. Distribution of Number and Percentage of Participants by Age

	Number	Percent
No Response	56	3.2
Less Than 20 Years	223	12.9
20-29 Years	707	40.8
30-39 Years	427	24.6
40-49 Years	195	11.2
50 and Over	126	7.3

Table 3. Distribution of Number and Percentage of Participants by Sex

		Percent
No Response	48	2.8
Male	1,228	70.8
Female	458	26.4
Total	1,734	100

Table 4. Distribution of Number and Percentage of Participants by Educational Level

	Number	Percent
No Response	33	1.9
Elementary	138	8
Secondary	654	37.7
University	852	49.1
Illiterate	49	2.8
Preparatory	8	0.5
Total	1,734	100

Table 5. Distribution of Number and Percentage of Participants by Place of Residence

	Number	Percent
No Response	55	3.2
City	930	53.6
Village	457	26.4
Camp	291	16.8
Other	1	0.1
Total	1,734	100

Hamas Rejects Peace Conference, Urges Boycott

JN0910094791 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 9 Oct 91 p 18

[Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas" has issued a statement rejecting the peace conference and calling for its boycott.

In its statement, the movement stressed its total rejection of the resolutions the Palestine National Council adopted at its latest session in Algiers and called on the PLO to abandon its capitulationist policy. It also called on all sons of our Arab and Islamic nation and the popular movements and forces to reject the peace conference and to abort it, and to express this stance through all possible means.

It also appreciated the Iranian call for convening a conference on solidarity with the Palestine question between 19-21 October 1991 which rejects the conference of liquidation intended to be held at the end of this month.

At the same time, Hamas called for escalating the intifadah as a practical and effective reply to the alleged "peace conference." It also emphasized the importance of national unity in confronting the enemies' designs aimed at dividing the Palestinian ranks.

Algiers VOP Airs Intifadah Call No. 75

LD0610205891 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Intifadah call No. 75—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate:

No voice can rise above that of the intifadah, the voice of the PLO.

This is call No. 75, the call of the martyrs of al-'Aqsa.

Masses of our heroic people! One month after another our people have been writing, with their chaste blood and great sacrifices, a new epic in the annals of their glorious struggle, affirming with firmness and persistence their determination to continue with their blessed, popular intifadah until the liberation; until the flags of the independent Palestinian states flutter over the plateau of Palestine and the minerates and domes of the Jerusalem mosques and churches.

Masses of the glorious intifadah! Every year, the month of October comes, filled with all the agonies, wounds, and horrible massacres—still alive in the memories of

the Palestinian struggle—that were committed against our people in this month. They start with the memory of the Qibyah massacre, through the massacre of Kafr Qasim, and end with the massacre of al-'Aqsa Mosque, in which our unarmed people wrote the most glittering epics of sacrifice when they rose in their entirety to defend the first of the two Qiblas and the third of the two holy mosques.

Despite all the colossal sacrifices, our people succeeded in teaching the Zionist enemy and the droves of settlers a lesson in steadfastness and the defense of sanctities in the face of the most ferocious and barbaric of repression.

Masses of our valiant people! The 20th session of the Palestine National Council [PNC] has painted an honorable picture of democracy and national Palestinian unity, and a responsible adherance to the Palestinian peace strategy which was approved by the 19th session of the PNC in 1988. This strategy is based on the Palestinian constants and the total implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy on Palestinian rights.

The statement of the PNC's 20th session was the outcome of democratic discussions which reflected the various political endeavors regarding the legitimacy of our people, including their right to return, self-determination, and an independent state on their national soil with Jerusalem as its capital.

Currently our people pass through a critical stage demanding that they: rally around the PLO, their sole legitimate representative; show the maximum degree of responsibility; bolster national Palestinian unity, which should be an enlightened rally around specific objectives epitomized in the Palestinian constants as affirmed by the last PNC session; bolster the intifadah, enhance it, protect it; and safeguard the achievements of our people.

Masses of our people! The differences of views in the political process and the definite condition this represents for protecting the Palestinian achievements requires all the national forces to be committed to the ethics of the national action and the bases of the democratic process, and to be aware of the dangers of the Zionist onslaught which is being carried out by various means. In this context we pledge to our people to be faithful to its sacrifices and not to compromise its legitimate rights, which are not for bargaining, and to protect its achievements. We reaffirm that the forthcoming phase, with all its titles, requires us to be committed to the intifadah, which is a right for all our people. We will not compromise this historic experience. On this occasion, the unified national leadership extends its struggle greetings to President Yasir 'Arafat and members of the new PLO Executive Committee for the confidence they have been granted by the National Council. The leadership extends greetings also to the secretaries general of the detachments of the Palestinian resistance movement which are affiliated to the PLO and pledges to them, as well as to our people, that the national unified leadership will remain a leadership body which works to consolidate the joint national action.

Masses of the brave intifadah! The stage our people are going through requires everyone to close ranks, strengthen national unity, and maintain and promote the momentum of the intifadah so that our people may be able to repel the fierce assault that seeks to harm our national inalienable rights.

The unified national leadership calls for the following:

1. The unified national leadership strongly condemns the recently planted statements about national personalities and institutions under various names. The unified national leadership affirms that it will strike with an iron fist at anyone proven to have had a link with these suspicious statements.

2. The unified national leadership affirms that the aggression against our own national factories in Nablus and the Gaza Strip indicate deviationist and irresponsible practices. The leadership urges the masses of our people and its striking forces not to give the opportunity to those who are planted in our ranks and want to sow the seeds of dissension and division between the sons of our people.

The unified national leadership condemns the attempts by agents of the occupation and those who are donning a nationalist cover to spread terror and insecurity among citizens by perpetrating acts of burglary and extortion, as happens in Nablus, Ramallah, and Gaza. The unified national leadership lauds the vigilance of our masses in Nablus, who have arrested one of these gangs. The unified national leadership asks the striking forces to hunt these hooligans, face up to them, and punish them.

3. The unified national leadership reaffirms the need not to use masks while dealing with the masses, not to assault citizens or violate the sanctity of homes for whatever reason and to provide them with protection continually, to avoid anything that may lead to problems, and to take the initiative to undertake good and compassionate deeds that would increase our people's readiness to rally around their blessed intifadah. Hence, while valuing the efforts made by the existing reforms committees, the unified national leadership calls for completing the establishment of reforms committees in every town, village, and refugee camp throughout the state of Palestine.

4. The unified national leadership stresses the need to maintain the educational process through students' respect for teaching bodies and school administrations and to avoid anything that may disturb education or instigate chaos at schools. In this context, the unified national leadership believes that there is a need to set up parents' committees at all schools in the state of Palestine and a need to elect student councils at schools to bring about cooperation between them, parents' committees, and teaching bodies to ensure the success of the educational process in full independence from the occupation and its laws and measures. The unified national leadership turns to students and teaching bodies at universities to maintain high academic standards at our Palestinian universities through their cooperation on

ensuring the success of the academic process at universities and to avoid any disturbances that may threaten that process. The unified national leadership urges the higher education council to make efforts for a wider mobilization of a media campaign to demand the reopening of Bir Zayt University, the same as other Palestinian universities.

5. The unified national leadership stresses that the death sentence will be carried out on anyone who has been found guilty of having sold or contributed to the selling of an inch of the territories of the state of Palestine to Jews.

6. The unified national leadership calls on the masses of our people to be vigilant and cautious of attempts being carried out by the occupation via its lackey,, to spread differences among the sons of the one people and to endanger the lives and properties of the masses. This is an attempt to drag our people into interfighting by exploiting the differences in opinion and political points of view.

7. The unified national leadership believes that the recent measures by the Red Cross—tangibly reducing the number of staff, deciding not to visit every detainee at the end of the second week of his detention, and choosing who it deems appropriate to visit—prove that the Red Cross has taken an appeasing attitude toward the occupation authorities on many occasions. It is not seriously addressing the complaints of the detainees and their families, and is not pressuring the occupation authorities to improve the living conditions of the detainees. Such measures and stands make the International Committee of the Red Cross lose part of the unblemished record it has acquired over a number of years. Therefore, the unified national leadership appeals to Red Cross officials to implement such measures and stands in a manner that befits the status of the Red Cross as an international body that supervises the nonviolation of international conventions and norms.

8. The unified national leadership warns—and for the very last time—those who circulate Israeli goods wrapped in Arab packing. If these people do not stopping their betrayal of the intifadah of their people, the unified national leadership will resort to publicizing lists containing the names of the goods they are circulating and their origins.

9. The unified national leadership appeals to all the national food manufacturing plants to put the manufacturing and sell-by dates on all their products as an important step along the path of quality control of national products.

10. The unified national leadership appeals to all concerned national establishments to provide seedlings, seeds, fertilizers, etc. to support farmers and protect it against confiscation and settlement building.

11. The unified national leadership extends salutations to our valiant detainees who were arrested recently and who have written and are writing the most glorious pages of steadfastness and heroism. The unified national leadership is confident that such arrest campaigns will not intimidate the masses of our people and will only increase their sacrifice and steadfastness. The leadership calls on our masses, and the international and national establishments, to stand by our detainees and halt the practices of torture and killing to which they are being subjected inside the cells of the occupation.

12. The unified national leadership, while affirming that the collective closing of shops at a fixed time does express a genuine commitment to the national decision and to the adherence of our people to this, reaffirms the need to close shops at 1300 collectively.

13. The unified national leadership strongly condemns the incident involving the killing of a German tourist and the injuring of another in Jerusalem, and the blatant violation by such an act of the ethics of our people, its religious values, and struggle-related achievements. The unified national leadership calls on the masses of our people to provide security and safety and all necessary protection for the foreign guests on all the land of the state of Palestine.

The tragedy of our people in Kuwait: Hundreds of thousands of our people in Kuwait, under the yoke of killings, arrests, and torture, have been forced to flee Kuwait, leaving behind everything they were able to build, get, and save in the form of property. These masses have arrived in Jordan, which has opened its doors fully to receive them in a state of dire need.

1. Committees should be set up at representation level among the sons of our people in Jordan who have been forced to leave Kuwait. These committees should mobilize the biggest campaign possible, at Arab and international levels, to secure support for their just demands to recover and secure all the rights of the sons of our people who were working in Kuwait.

2. The unified national leadership urges all the sons of our people who have left Kuwait and who can return to their homeland to begin returning immediately to the occupied lands.

At external level:

1. The unified national leadership urges the United Nations and the international and humanitarian bodies to take all the necessary measures to pressure the Israeli enemy to permit the sons of our people who have left Kuwait to return to the occupied territories to live among their families and on their land.

2. The unified national leadership condemns the U.S. imperialist attempts to launch a fresh aggression against fraternal Iraq, and the leadership warns that this fresh aggression will have grave consequences on the security and stability of the region and the whole world.

3. With the opening of the new annual session of the UN General Assembly, the unified national leadership urges

the world states who are members of this international institution to affirm their solidarity with the rights of our people and to make practical decisions for carrying out international legality concerning the solution to the Palestinian problem, and to confirm the resolutions taken over the past years regarding the Palestinian people and its just national rights.

As the United States tries to exercise various kinds of pressure on the member states to cancel UN General Assembly Resolution 3379/1975, which equates Zionism with racism, it would be better for the United Nations to discuss the racist practices which Israel continues to commit against our Palestinian people in the occupied territories, and to make means available for protecting our people against these practices and compel Israel to respond to the international resolutions relating to the Palestinian question and to comply with the wishes of the international community to withdraw totally from the land of our occupied state.

The activities: To regard the first half of October as a time for marked escalation of the struggle to be carried out by our striking groups by intensifying the number up of ambushes striking at the occupation forces and their citizens. The unified national leadership appeals to all sons and daughters of our people to participate in these activities, each according to his/her own capability and means, so that we can prove to the entire world that our people is still committed to its popular intifadah as a political option until the realization of its aspired aims.

October 8: A comprehensive strike—except in the transportation sector—on the first anniversary of the savage massacre by the soldiers of occupation against the sons of our people at the blessed al-'Aqsa Mosque. The day will be regarded as the Day of the Palestinian Martyr, when the Holy Koran will be recited from the minarets of all our mosques. The bells of our churches will be tolled on that day, and all sons of our people will converge on the blessed al-'Aqsa Mosque and organize group visits to the families of the martyrs, carrying with them symbolic gifts. Prayers for the dead will be said for the souls of our faithful martyrs, as well as the noon prayers throughout the mosques of the state of Palestine, especially the blessed al-'Aqsa Mosque, to reaffirm the insistence of our people on defending its land and sanctities.

October 9: A comprehensive strike marking the 47th month of the victorious intifadah.

October 12: A day of marked escalation marking the 38th anniversary of the Zionist massacre committed against our people in Qibya village.

October 10, 12, 20: Days of comprehensively opening shops.

October 16: A day to stress the rallying of our people inside around the PLO—the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—by raising the Palestinian banners in all towns, villages, and camps of the state of Palestine.

October 21: A day of solidarity with our detainees in the prisons of occupation. Sit-ins will be staged at the headquarters of the Red Cross demanding that the latter should pressure the occupation authorities to improve the living conditions of our hero detainees.

[Signed] The unified national leadership of the intifadah

The state of Palestine

Strike on Temple Mount Anniversary

NC0810115291 Paris AFP in English 1129 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Jerusalem, Oct 8 (AFP) - Tens of thousands of Palestinian workers in the Israeli-occupied territories refused to work in Israel on Tuesday on a tense first anniversary of the Temple Mount shootings that left 18 Palestinians dead.

Stores in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem closed and most of the 100,000 Arabs who work in Israel stayed home in support of the general strike called by the Unified Leadership of the Uprising, Palestinian sources said.

Dozens of Palestinians breached heavy Israeli security meanwhile and entered the Temple Mount to attend prayers. Police said there had been no incidents, but warned that religious services would be stopped if there was disorder.

"There is practically no chance that security forces will be taken by surprise as was the case last year," Police Minister Roni Milo said on the radio.

"We have deployed the units needed to counter all situations, even the worst," Milo said.

Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were barred from entering the city for 48 hours from Monday at 0200 GMT. The Army increased the number of road checkpoints around Jerusalem, where 1,000 soldiers and policemen were deployed, they said.

Police also set up identification checks at Jerusalem's different historic gates as well as at the entrance to the Al-Haram al-Sharif and Al-Aqsa Mosque (Temple Mount) inside the city.

The controls were stepped up to prevent Palestinians from the territories with no work permits from staying over in Israel proper. Trucks with supplies of fruits and vegetables from the territories were also being carefully inspected for bombs, police said.

Tourists were prevented from entering the mosque compound and police reinforcements were also dispatched to

East Jerusalem and neighboring villages to prevent mourning prayers for last year's victims from turning violent, police said. [passage omitted]

Ambassador in Moscow Resigns

TA0810135191 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 7 Oct 91 p 1

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources have reported that Nabil 'Amr, the Palestinian ambassador in Moscow, submitted his resignation. He also resigned from the Fatah Movement. 'Amr sent a letter to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat in which he explained his reasons for this step.

During the Palestine National Council session held recently in Algeria, Nabil 'Amr had asked for the formation of an executive committee consisting of new faces and had called on Yasir 'Arafat to be vigilant in choosing his aides for the coming phase.

Algeria

Ghozali on Government-Parliament Relations

LD0810173191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Interview with Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali by correspondent Mohamed Challouche in Algiers on 8 October—recorded]

[Text] [Challouche] Your excellency the prime minister, the issue of postponing the vote on the two draft laws on elections and division of electoral constituencies raises a wide controversy and questions about the reasons for this repeated postponement. What exactly is happening?

[Ghozali] This is a decison made by the National People's Assembly. The Assembly is the master. It is sovereign, and it decides. We have no objections, though time has started to pass a bit. We do need a final decision. It is all right if we waste three or four days to continue the dialogue. All right. We see no objection. As for the postponement, it has not been requested by the government. It is a parliamentary decision, and we respect this decision. From the very beginning we expressed our desire for dialogue, dialogue and consultation. The problems, in fact, what do you mean when you talk about problems between...?

[Challouche, interrupting] The national press talks a lot about the deep problems between you and the Assembly, to the extent that many journalists say that the speaker of the parliament is embarrassed, and this is why he asked for the postponement for six days.

[Ghozali] No, look! We must distinguish between the government and the Assembly, and between the government and the people's deputies. As for this specific framework, I do not see any fundamental problem. In other words, there is a plan, views may differ, but this is the nature of things. Views differ. The government has a point of view, and the Assembly has a view. We agreed on some essential points; for instance, supervising the administration in matters pertaining to the elections. This is very important for the fairness of the elections. We differed over other matters. We do not want to impose our view on the Assembly, which is the master. We say that from one angle the decision comes from the Assembly, but whatever the decision may be, it is the government that bears the responsibility of implementing the decision. The government tries to maintain its credibility and the credibility of the plan, and this is a very important for the elections plan. We are not prepared to concede anything which could affect the credibility of the plan and the credibility of the government.

[Challouche] Is it possible to know the nature of these issues on which you differ?

[Ghozali] There are issues; for example, the number of the people's deputies. How would public opinion accept tomorrow increasing the number of the people's deputies, thereby diminishing the worthiness of the deputies? Don't forget that this is the principal institution of the country. What do we have? We have a number of institutions which we should preserve, including the People's National Assembly. We are first in a state of austerity, and then we increase the number of the deputies. The devaluation of the value of the dinar is enough for us. It is imposed on us. Why do we go and reduce the value of the deputy? Let us not forget that this a matter of national representation. Therefore, the government's view is that an exaggerated number of deputies would touch on the government's credibility. There are stances pertaining, for instance, to the independent candidates. We should not forget that the Constitution, the Constitution, in spirit as well as in letter, gives the Algerian the right to propose himself as a candidate, but it does not give the right to the parties. Every Algerian has the right to nominate himself. If we apply two measures at the expense of the independents, it means that we have violated the soul and the letter of the Constitution. Why should we impose procedural measures on the independent candidates, for instance, requiring them to gather 500 people [as proposers/seconders for a candidate] and take them to the judge? No, this is not sensible. Does it mean that what we gave by the left hand is taken away by the right hand?

Then the issue of age. Why don't we open up to the youth and convey the message that Algerian society has confidence in them, and give them the opportunity to take the torch? There are other points which could probably cause problems in implementation, for instance proxy voting. We are of course prepared to continue the dialogue within the context of mutual respect and respect for opinions, on condition that we do not touch on the credibility of either the Assembly or the government.

[Challouche] A final question. What do you think of the rumors that some deputies are trying to pass a motion requesting the dissolution of the Assembly?

[Ghozali] Of course, this lies outside the framework of relations between the government and the Assembly. We mean by this that attempts outside the Assembly distort the dialogue, or distort the problem. What is the justification for this request? The speaker keeps on day and night talking about dissolving the Assembly. This is not sensible. There is a premeditated maneuver attempting to distract society and the Assembly from the principal issues.

Egypt

Foreign Minister Reacts to Shamir's Statement

NC0810204991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1930 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 8 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today expressed his deep regret over the remarks

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir made in his recent statement before the Knesset, which included preconditions for the proposed Middle East peace conference.

In a statement to the press this evening, Minister Musa said Egypt would have preferred it if Israel had emphasized a spirit of peace and dialogue as well as a desire to hold constructive negotiations among the parties concerned in the Middle East, particularly because we are on the threshold of a historic step which will bring all the concerned parties together in negotiations designed to resolve all facets of the Arab-Israeli dispute.

The foreign minister stressed that the "land for peace" principle, which the Israeli prime minister rejects, is a basic and indispensable component of any peace effort which is based on an unambiguous law.

Musa affirmed that Yizhaq Shamir's position on the status of Jerusalem has been rejected in form and in substance. The entire international community has rejected the unilateral measures that Israel has taken on the Jerusalem issue.

The foreign minister also emphasized the insistence of the nations of the world—Arabs and non-Arabs, Muslims and non-Muslims—that the status of Jerusalem cannot be unilaterally determined, given that Jerusalem is a holy city for all the heavenly religions, and thus negotiation about its status is a basic matter falling within the framework of the provisions of UN Resolution 242.

The foreign minister expressed the hope that Israel will reconsider its position, correctly evaluate the issues, and will adopt constructive and positive positions to help promote the peace process in the Middle East in order to achieve peace and security for the region's peoples, without attempting to impose fait accompli. He also expressed the hope that Israel will relinquish repression, the use of force, and the occupation of the lands of others, and will fully respect the legitimate rights of the various peoples of the region without exception, including those of the Palestinian people.

Musa called on Israel to relinquish the policy of imposing fait accompli and making prior conditions for negotiations to enable the peace process to take place in a constructive atmosphere characterized by flexibility, wisdom, legitimacy, and a critical view of a different future. These elements are essential for achieving a just and stable peace in the Middle East.

Arens, Shamir Positions on Peace Criticized

NC0910101991 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0607 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 9 Oct (MENA)—The newspapers AL-AHRAM and AL-AKHBAR comment today on Israel's stand on the current international efforts to hold a Middle East peace conference.

AL-AHRAM expresses surprise at Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens' call to the United States to stop demanding that Israel stop building settlements and his justifying this request by pointing out that Israel, at Washington's urging, did not respond to Iraqi missile attacks during the Gulf war. The paper says Israel is openly asking Washington to pay an additional price for its position during the Gulf war, although at the time it obtained Patriot missiles and other military hardware.

The paper adds that it is regrettable that Arens is portraying the U.S. attitude as if it were a hostile propaganda campaign against Israel when in fact it is a principled political stand. It says the request to stop building settlements is legitimate, particularly before the peace conference, and agrees with the U.S. Administration's declared position opposing building settlements in the occupied territories.

AL-AHRAM concludes by saying that the U.S. position is based on the overall U.S. post-cold war strategy which has seen an emergence of a U.S. role based on upholding international legitimacy and supporting the United Nations, as was apparent during the Gulf war.

Under the headline "Shamir's Endless Vagaries," AL-AKHBAR says that at a time when all the world's leaders are serious about holding a Middle East peace conference, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir insists on maintaining a noncommittal attitude. One day he announces that he agrees to attend such a conference and sets strange arbitrary conditions and the next day he threatens not to participate in this major international peace effort that, everyone knows, will benefit Israel most of all.

The paper adds that the latest fad of Shamir, who still has a 19th-century mentality, is his claim that he still does not know where, when, or how the peace process will begin. He makes this claim despite James Baker's seven regional tours and the long meetings and extensive talks that were held in Tel Aviv during those tours.

The paper adds: What is more curious is that Shamir still believes there is no connection between building settlements in the occupied Arab territories and establishing peace in the region. His attitude is that the original inhabitants of the territories should go to hell to make room for strangers who have been shipped from the USSR, leaving behind their homes, farms, and businesses. Shamir even has the insolence to maintain that settling Soviet Jews on usurped Arab lands is a humanitarian issue that does not contradict the political character of the peace negotiations advocated by the international community.

The paper asks: Have you seen a more narrow and backward mentality than this on the threshold of the 21st century?

Mubarak, Syria's al-Asad To Meet 'Soon'

NC0810123991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 8 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that a summit meeting will be held soon between President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, adding that Mubarak asked him to go to Syria yesterday to deliver a message to President al-Asad about the Middle East situation and peace process. Musa said that after he delivered the message, he reviewed with the Syrian president the regional situation and the current peace efforts. He noted that the Syrian president also asked him to carry a message back to President Mubarak.

The foreign minister submitted a report about his meeting with the Syrian president to President Mubarak immediately upon his return from Damascus last night.

Musa said that the five confrontation states—Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine—are currently coordinating their stands and that preparations are underway to hold a five-party summit meeting. He pointed out that yesterday's message dealt with Egyptian-Syrian coordination and the proposed summit.

Musa also said that the meeting of Damascus Declaration foreign ministers will be held some time in November.

Al-Baz on Objective of Peace Conference

NC0810075991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2115 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 7 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has emphasized that the objective of convening the international peace conference is to achieve peace in the region based on legal, political, and psychological foundations as well as on a balance between the (?commitments) and interests of the various parties.

In a speech he delivered at a seminar on the peace conference organized by the Egyptian Pagwash group [name as received] this evening, Dr. Usamah al-Baz said that the legal basis of the peace conference is the application of all clauses of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He emphasized that Egypt has obtained a specific understanding from the United States that Resolution 242 applies to all fronts.

Dr. al-Baz noted that the time set for convening the conference is suitable because it is difficult to say that waiting is better. There are several reasons for this, including the fact that we tried waiting in the past and proved that it did not lead to tangible benefits for the Arab stand. The longer the time, the easier it was for (?Israel) to change the identity of the Palestinian (?cause) with astonishing speed. Furthermore, the Palestinian view of the goal is clear and defined and this consensus involves Palestinians at home and abroad.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz said in his speech that current international circumstances are opportune for convening the international peace conference because there is quasi-international consensus that the regional problems must be resolved, especially the Middle East issue, which inherently carries many dangers.

Dr. al-Baz noted that there is no reason to fear the international conference. He said: We do not fear anything and we have such material and moral strength that Arab negotiator can enter the negotiations fearlessly.

He added: We can enter the peace negotiations on a firm basis and we have greater elements of strength than of weakness, coupled with complete conviction that Israel will not be able to impose anything on the Arabs.

Dr. al-Baz pointed out that nothing will be imposed on the Palestinian party and the current Palestinian stands are just and declared. The Palestinian leadership has accepted what has been demanded from it and this has facilitated Arab support for Palestinian demands.

Dr. al-Baz said that Egypt is now coordinating bilaterally with the states bordering Israel. Egypt is holding contacts with the Syrian leadership and the PLO and talks have been held with Jordanian and Lebanese officials. Consultations are also being held with other Arab parties not participating in the negotiations, particularly the Gulf Cooperation Council states.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz added that the level at which Egypt, Syria, Jordan, the PLO, and Lebanon will meet has not yet been decided but it could be at the level of experts at first and then expand, especially as the political orientations have already been accomplished. What remain are the technical issues to be presented at the conference and how to coordinate the stands and conduct the negotiating process.

On the subject of nuclear arms in the region, Dr. al-Baz said that the Egyptian leadership is alert to this problem. It was discussed with Israel and the United States as much as two and a half years before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait because it causes instability in the region.

Dr. Ahmad Sidqi al-Dajani, member of the Palestine National Council, then delivered a speech in which he affirmed that the United States is serious about the Middle East peace process because it is in its interest that a settlement be reached in the region. He said there is now a historic opportunity for peace and the international atmosphere is suitable for seizing this opportunity.

Dr. al-Dajani added that, during the Gulf crisis, the world made something like an international promise; all the states of the world, whether individually, bilaterally, or within international group, urged solving the Palestinian issue following the Gulf crisis. Therefore, we must continue with this.

Dr. al-Dajani noted that the invitation to the conference will probably be made in a matter of days and the conference could convene in October. He said: We are thus facing a new phase in which many of the constants have changed and we must be well- prepared to conduct the negotiating process.

Defense Minister Interviewed on Arab Security

NC0510091291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Oct (MENA)—The Cairo press today published front-page reports on celebrations marking the 6 October anniversary. In its headline, AKHBAR AL-YAWM reports that President Husni Mubarak will give a speech tomorrow as part of the October celebrations, adding that new advanced types of Egyptian weapons will be displayed during the festivities.

The newspaper AL-AHRAM publishes an interview with Defense Minister General Husayn Tantawi, during which he discusses a number of military, political, and security issues in the region. In the interview, Gen. Tantawi noted that the October war broke the negative psychological barrier left from the 1967 conflict, adding that were it not for the October victory, our troops would not have participated in the war for Kuwait.

Gen. Tantawi said our most important lesson from the Gulf crisis was that it proved beyond a doubt the importance of developing and consolidating inter-Arab cooperation in military industrialization, training, and the exchange of expertise. This could enable the Arabs to achieve Arab military integration to face future threats, he added.

Regarding the elimination of weapons of mass destruction in the region, Gen. Tantawi said Middle East arms control must come as part of a comprehensive settlement and an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict, provided a ban on armament applies to all countries in the region so that it might not upset the regional balance by favoring one party at the expense of others.

The defense minister stressed that Egypt's national security is linked to pan-Arab security. He noted that the Damascus Declaration for coordination and cooperation among Arab states is merely an appropriate start for regional security arrangements, with due respect to neighborliness and the sovereignty of each state. He noted that Egypt could play an influential role in security arrangements for maintaining regional stability, considering Egypt's political and military standing, which could be used to serve the interests of the Arab nation.

In an interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper, Gen. Tantawi said that the peace process, which the United States is seeking to advance and which we are all eager to promote to achieve peace in this region, will result in restoring the balance among the region's countries. He expressed his belief that the United States is serious in achieving peace in the region, if not for establishing justice and restoring the rights of peoples, then at least for the sake of defending its regional interests.

The defense minister said that with its geographic position in the heart of the Arab nation and its political, economic, and military standing, Egypt has influence over and is influenced by the Arab nation. He added that any threat to pan-Arab security will affect Egypt's national security, and this requires integration and coordination between Egyptian national security and pan-Arab security. He noted that for these reasons, the Arab regional security system must spring from the region's countries themselves.

The defense minister stressed that the aggression against Kuwait proved that problems among the region's countries cannot be solved through armed struggle, regardless of the gap in the magnitude and level of military power among these countries. He added that a just and comprehensive peace in the region must be based on respect of all the peoples' rights to live within internationally recognized borders. He said everyone should adopt the principle of freeing the region of weapons of mass destruction, be they nuclear, chemical, or biological.

Gen. Tantawi added that to safeguard regional peace, the balance of power among the region's countries must be considered so no country's military capabilities outshine those of its neighbors. The defense minister noted that Iraq's power is a source of strength for the Arabs, provided this power is used to serve Arab goals and pan-Arab security, not as a force of aggression or threat. He added that the absence Iraqi power will disturb the regional and Arab security equation. He added we must not forget that Iraq's power was not used to serve the Arab security, but to tear it apart and assault it.

Sudan

Armed Conflicts Within Rebel Movement Reported

EA0710190091 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1315 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] There are reports that large numbers of displaced persons and returnees from the rebel movement have arrived during the last two days in Malakal. The reports say that others are on their way there, fleeing the continuing battles between supporters and opponents inside the rebel movement.

Major General Faysal Sinadah, commander of the Upper Nile Military Zone, said that dissension between Riak Machar Teng and Lam Akol Ajawin on one side and Garang's group on the other had developed into an armed tribal conflict. He said that ferocious military operations were now under way between them. Heavy weapons were being used in this conflict which had caused big losses in lives of rebels and civilians. These battles led to a large migration to Malakal. Maj. Gen.

Sinadah said that the continuing tribal conflict led to the domination by groups of Dinkas and Nuers in that area.

His excellency said that the friendly forces carried out successful operations against the outlaws recently and managed to seize large amounts of military equipment. Many rebels had also joined the friendly forces. These battles resulted in the friendly forces capturing a T-55 tank in good condition and 21 Kalashnikov guns, as well as large quantities of ammunition and weapons.

Meanwhile, intensive security arrangements have been effected to receive the returnees and displaced persons. Some have already begun handing over their weapons to the relevant authorities in the town.

Council Approves International Drug Accord

EA0710175591 Khartoum SUNA in English 1023 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] [place-name indistinct] 7 Oct (SUNA)—The Council of Ministers session, chaired by the Revolution Command Council [RCC] chairman, yesterday approved the mental effects agreement signed in Vienna, 1971. The subject, presented by deputy chairman of the RCC, the interior minister, represents an international agreement to combat illegal narcotics, said minister of culture and information, the government spokesman. The agreement was prepared by 106 states and 55 organisations and signed by 89 states, among them was Sudan, Abdullah M. Ahmad added.

In a closed session, the council was briefed by the finance minister on the economic situation of the country and by acting foreign affairs minister on the international and regional political developments.

Tunisia

'Understanding' With Algeria on Ennahda Threat

PM0810151591 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Oct 91 p 1

[Muhammad 'Ali al-Qulaybi report: "Kallel Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT After Meeting With Ghozali: Algeria Understands Ennahda's Dangers to Tunisia's Security"]

[Excerpt] Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Tunisian Interior Minister Abdallah Kallel has emphasized that his talks in Algeria were both positive and fruitful and that they accentuated Algeria's understanding of the Tunisian view of numerous questions, first and foremost the dangers which Ennahda extremists' activities pose to Tunisia's security and stability.

In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT after his short and sudden visit to Algeria last Thursday, during which he met with Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali and a number of officials, Kallel said that an understanding was reached on Algeria's hosting of elements from the Ennahda movement.

Kallel praised the staunch and brotherly relations binding the two fraternal countries and peoples.

He added that these relations will not be affected by this cloud, pointing out that the Tunisian security authorities' vigilance and firmness have succeeded in destroying that extremist danger. He said that Tunisia, which is united behind President Zine El Abidin Ben Ali and its constitutional institutions, will decisively and confidently continue its work and achievements in the various fields to realize development and prosperity for all its citizens. [passage omitted]

Algerian Prime Minister Arrives for Visit

LD0910125191 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali arrived in Tunisia this morning as an envoy from President Chadli Bendjedid to Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Foreign Minister Confers With UN's Rolf Ekeus

JN0810064991 Manama WAKH in English 1633 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Manama, Oct 7 (GNA)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah received here today the chairman of a special U.N. commission on Iraq's most lethal weapons Mr Rolf Ekeus. During the meeting, they reviewed implementing the U.N. Security Council resolutions on the commission's work.

Kuwait

Prime Minister on POW's, Syrian Relations

NC0810180791 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, has stressed that securing the release of the Kuwait prisoners detained by the Iraqi regime is the Kuwaiti Government's top concern.

In an interview with the chief editor of the Syrian newspaper AL- BA'TH, his highness stressed the strong relations between Kuwait and Syria and the desire to promote them in all fields. His highness the heir apparent stressed that Kuwait cannot forget sisterly Syria's support during the crisis and added that the Kuwaiti people will always remember President Hafiz al-Asad's position.

National Council Holds Regular Session

NC0810182891 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] The National Council held its regular open session at 0900 today. The session was chaired by its speaker 'Abd-al-'Aziz Fahd al-Masa'id and was attended by his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, their excellencies the ministers, and the Council members.

The Council discussed a number of subjects, including endorsing the minutes of the 12th session dated 17 September 1991. The Council members were told about a message from His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the fraternal State of Qatar, which came in response to the National Assembly speaker's message thanking him for the Qatari brothers' support for liberating Kuwait from the hands of the brutal Iraqi aggressors. Some members commented on the report submitted by the National Council delegation that participated in the Strasbourg conference on democracies and in the Arab-European parliamentary dialogue which took place in Brussels from 16 to 20 September.

Some reports prepared by the relevant committees were approved and referred to the cabinet, and the session was adjourned at 1320 this afternoon. The Council will hold its next meeting at 0900 on Tuesday 15 October.

Saudi Arabia

Pakistani President Khan's Visit Viewed

LD0710204591 Riyadh SPA in English 1951 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Islamabad, Oct. 7, SPA—Pakistani Foreign Affairs Minister Mohammad Siddique Khan has highlighted the role being played by Saudi Arabia under the leadership of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz on Arab, Islamic and international arenas. He also described as 'distinguished and ideal' relations linking Saudi Arabia and Pakistan and reiterated his country's appreciation of the brotherly relations between the two countries and confirmed the growing nature of these relations.

Khan made these remarks during a press conference held in Islamabad before Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan left for the kingdom on an official visit. Meanwhile, Pakistani officials in Islamabad said the talks between the custodian of the two holy mosques and the Pakistani president would cover bilateral relations, regional and international issues of mutual interest, the situation in the Gulf, Afghanistan and Kashmir will figure high on the agenda of the Saudi-Pakistani talks, they added.

Khan, Interior Minister Meet

LD0810220291 Riyadh SPA in English 1926 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Jeddah, Oct.8, SPA—Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan received here this afternoon Interior Minister Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud. During the meeting, they reviewed relations binding Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. They also discussed measures and services provided by the Kingdom to muslim pilgrims.

Meanwhile, President Ishaq Khan received in Jeddah this afternoon Prince Majed Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, governor of Makkah region. Earlier this morning, the Pakistani president received also Prince Turki al-Faysal.

The meetings were attended by the accompanying delegation of the Pakistani president, the Pakistani ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Information Minster Ali al-Shafr, who is the accompanying minister for the president, and the Kingdom's ambassador to Pakistan.

PLO Official Praises King Fahd

LD0810215291 Riyadh SPA in English 1947 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Jeddah, Oct. 8, SPA—Chairman of the Palestinian National Salvation Front, Khalid al-Fahum has commended stances of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud in support of the Palestinian question.

Al-Fahum said in a statement published today in the press, "We look forward to the Kingdom with all confidence and optimism, since it is the first Arab country to always supports the issues of the Arab and Islamic nations".

The custodian of the two holy mosques has a prominent role in supporting the issues of various peoples in the world, he added. He also stated that the time is ripe for the Arab nation to shoulder its responsibilities and make its clear and honest decisions. He pointed to the necessity of a unified stand serving the Palestinian problem, which is the prime cause of the Arabs.

Government Reportedly Violates Cease-Fire

NC0810180591 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1702 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Following the talks between Kurdistan front officials, particularly brother Mas'ud Barzani, and Iraqi Government officials in Baghdad, agreement was reached to stop the fighting between the Kurdistan front forces and those of the government. Iraqi Defense Minister Husayn Kamil endorsed these efforts, and Baghdad radio broadcast the news.

The cease-fire was scheduled to go into effect at 1700 today. As soon as it began, however, one of the Iraqi artillery battalions stationed on the Tanjaro crossroads near al-Sulaymaniyah violated the cease-fire when it opened artillery fire at 1700 on al-Sulaymaniyah, martyring or wounding hundreds of people and collapsing dozens of houses on top of their inhabitants. The shelling was continuing when this report was broadcast.

We call on the government officials to respect the cease-fire agreement, and we appeal to all the countries and forces of good in the world to put an end to the Iraqi Government's irresponsible actions.

Kurdistan Front Condemns Actions of Iraqi Forces

JN0810165991 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1627 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Statement by the "political leadership of the Iraqi Kurdistan front"—date not given]

[Text] The political leadership of the Kurdistan front met on 8 October and carefully studied the recent developments in Karkuk and al-Sulaymaniyah. We were greatly pained at the artillery and missile shelling against Kifri, Klar, al-Sulaymaniyah, and the (al-Darayil) complex by the government forces. We condemn this action which caused casualties among the defenseless citizens.

The political leadership also announces that it is carrying out a comprehensive and serious investigation into the REUTER report on 7 October that some Kurdish elements in as-Sulaymaniyah had executed several prisoner soldiers. Should this report prove to be true, the political leadership will mete out the severest punishment to the perpetrators of this crime.

Law, Order Said Restored in Al-Sulaymaniyah

JN0910085791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0732 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Oct (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH newspaper reports that the armed skirmishes in Kifri and Klar areas had broken out because some disorderly, irresponsible groups attacked local government centers, services, schools, and several military sites.

The paper quotes its correspondent in the northern area today as saying that these groups detained a number of military men who were on leave and executed them by firing squad.

The paper points out that these groups had previously assaulted several families in the two areas; blackmailed and robbed citizens; and caused confusion and instability in Kifri and Klar, the road that links them, and other adjacent areas to the north and south of al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate. The armed forces intervened to restore law and order after the killing of the military men who were on leave.

The paper says that thanks to constructive cooperation with the Kurdistan front and its leader Mas'ud Barzani, the armed forces now have a tight grip on the area and have gained complete control of the situation and restored security, stability, and safety to citizens.

Mas'ud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Front, had earlier spoken to foreign reporters and strongly condemned this massacre, and asked for an immediate investigation to be carried out to punish the perpetrators and prevent a recurrence. He also expressed his astonishment at the crime and the conduct of these irresponsible elements that caused the incident.

Opposition To Hold Conference, Form Government

NC0810151591 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] According to well-informed sources, Iraqi opposition groups are planning to hold a conference in al-Ta'if in Saudi Arabia in an effort to free our people, once and for all, from the nightmarish rule of Saddam.

Representatives from Iraq's neighboring countries will be invited to the conference, which will focus on Iraq's future. The Iraqi opposition is expected to form a government-in-exile, thus creating an official entity which can talk to the neighboring countries and other countries with political weight.

'Informed Sources' Report Hammadi Execution

PM0810102591 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 7 Oct 91 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Sa'dun Hammadi Executed"]

[Text] Amman, Tehran, SAWT AL-KUWAYT—Informed sources in Tehran have revealed that the Iraqi regime executed Sa'dun Hammadi after he was ousted as prime minister a few weeks ago. Iraqi refugees who left Baghdad recently for Jordan, Iran, and Turkey said that news of Hammadi's execution was circulating within close party circles. The refugees report that the authorities were surrounding it with complete secrecy due to severe tension on the present political scene, especially as Hammadi was from the city of Karbala', one of the Islamic movement's strongholds in southern Iraq and

one of the most important centers for the people's uprising which erupted in March.

The informed Iranian sources linked Hammadi's execution with the the coup attempt to topple Saddam Husayn carried out two weeks ago, whose failure led to the execution of 76 officers, among them Colonel Mahmud Salim Rida, commander of the "Hattin" unit belonging to the Republican Guard forces.

The sources said that these officers, most of whom originate from the al-Mawsil Governorate in northern Iraq, had agreed with Sa'dun Hammadi on a plan to topple the Saddam Husayn regime under which Hammadi would assume the post of president of the republic. By including Hammadi with them, they aimed to dissociate their movement from the description "military coup," thus providing bigger chances for obtaining the required internal support. This is because the "new president" belongs to the Shiite sect, whereas the putschists belong to the Sunni sect. Besides, appointing a civilian president who does not belong to the "Saddam guard" would make the new regime more acceptable to the world.

On that basis, the sources add, Sa'dun Hammadi made several contacts with Tehran and through them, with "local and international quarters" to guarantee their support for the coup. Sa'dun Hammadi's assassination comes amid a tide of severe political struggle within the regime, demonstrated by Saddam Husayn's recent action of placing the country under the tight control of those who are close to him.

The day before yesterday Muhammad Hamzah al-Zubaydi, the present prime minister; 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, the present interior minister and governor of Kuwait during the invasion; and Mizban Khadr Hadi, director of the Ba'th Party Vocational and Popular Bureau, were admitted to the ruling regional command.

PRC Denial of Role in Nuclear Program Reported

JN0810122291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Oct (INA)—China yesterday described as baseless the information announced by David Kay's committee, which says that it participated in the Iraqi nuclear program.

David Kay's committee alleged that China provided sensitive equipment to Iraq for uranium enrichment and for manufacturing detonators for nuclear bombs.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Culture and Information commented on this report saying: This is more evidence that the objective of David Kay's committee is political blackmail in the service of the U.S. Administration and not the implementation of Security Council resolutions, since it is known that China faces strong pressure from the United States to give in to U.S. hegemony.

Shamir Sees 'Dissonance,' Not 'Rift' With U.S.

TA0810124591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Report by Yo'el Nir]

[Text] It is too early to report on what happened at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session with the prime minister today, but as far as we know there were several harsh verbal exchanges between the prime minister and the leader of the opposition. Let us therefore concentrate on comments the prime minister made to reporters after the meeting.

Most of the questions referred to Israeli-U.S. relations. The prime minister was asked about the possibility that invitations to the conference will be sent even without our consent, and he replied that the United States has informed us explicitly that no invitations will be sent without our consent. He added that the term honest broker is a U.S. invention, which we frequently discuss with the Americans out of concern for the process. The Americans tell us that they sometimes have a hard time because the other side asks them questions that require a response regarding their positions.

As for the reported recent rift in our relations with the United States, Mr. Shamir said that perhaps one can detect a certain dissonance, as he called it, here and there, but there is no room for talk about a rift. We have many differences of opinion with the administration, but we are not conducting negotiations with the United States; our conflict is with the Arab countries, and we are asking the United States to help us resolve it.

Asked whether his criticism of the United States in his Knesset address yesterday afternoon regarding its role as an honest broker does not indicate that we have reached a crisis in our relations with the United States, Shamir replied:

[Begin Shamir recording] There is no connection between these two issues. The role of honest broker can be assumed by a country that decides to play such a role. We believe that in the very serious, complex, and complicated negotiations toward the solution of a conflict as deep as the Arab-Israeli conflict, the mediator, if there is one, must be an honest broker who does not serve or support one of the sides. This is what we ask of the United States.

The Americans invented the phrase honest broker. We want the United States to fulfill this role independent of the nature of our bilateral relations at present.

This is a historic mission; therefore, passing situations should not be taken into account. The United States says: We will make an effort. It says that sometimes this is tough, because it is required to answer questions about its political positions. The problem is really a problem, and we frequently discuss with the United States the need for it to fulfill the role of honest broker. We do so out of concern for the positive results of the process on which we are embarking. [end recording]

The prime minister expressed the hope that the issue of the loan guarantees, which pains us deeply, will be resolved within a few months and that the United States will revert to its old self, as he put it.

Finally, regarding the opening of the conference, the prime minister said: There is no absolute certainty, but one could say with a large measure of confidence that the process will indeed begin.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1230 GMT on 8 October reports that "the prime minister disclosed to members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that Israel has received the draft invitations to the conference, which will be sent by the United States and the USSR. At the same time, Shamir said that the text of the invitation has not yet been finalized and that it is still only a draft. He claimed that there still remain several open points that will have to be ironed out before the invitations are sent. In any event, he explained, Israel will not respond to the invitation unless there is full agreement beforehand."]

Sees No Baker 'Pullback' From Promises

TA0810174891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir disclosed that although Israel has already received a draft of the invitation to the international conference, the issue of the Palestinian representation has not been finalized as yet. Yo'el Nir reports:

Referring to the Palestinian representation, the prime minister notes that we had an agreement with the administration that the PLO would not participate in the process and that the Palestinian delegation would not include a representative of either the diaspora or Jerusalem. We are waiting for letters of assurances which the Americans will provide to the sides, to ascertain that the various promises are not contradictory, says Shamir. He adds that he has not discerned a pullback on the part of Secretary of State Baker from promises he has made to Israel, only a possible change, which is reflected in dissonance. [passage omitted]

As for the guarantees, Mr. Shamir says that we will probably get them, although there has been no promise that their approval would be unconditional. [passage omitted]

Settlers Council To Give Baker 'Warm Reception'

TA0810160391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Report by Udi Segal]

[Text] The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip has decided to take practical steps in an attempt to prevent the peace conference from taking place. At the council meeting the settlers' leaders reiterated the call not to attend a regional peace

conference. The council decided to establish two teams to coordinate activities. Here are some remarks by Uri Ari'el, secretary general of the council:

[Begin Ari'el recording] We think that we should give the secretary of state a warm reception on his upcoming visit. A warm reception could mean demonstrations, for example; however, I would prefer to talk about this only in several days. [end recording]

Ari'el did not rule out the possible establishment of new settlements prior to Secretary of State Baker's trip to Israel. When we decide on the time to carry out our actions, he said, the Israeli public will already know about it.

'Indirect' U.S.-PLO Talks To Be Protested

TA0910114391 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
9 October 91 p 1

[Report from Washington by Hemi Shalev and Drora Perl]

[Excerpt] U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will arrive in Israel in the middle of next week for the final meetings that will determine Israel's participation in the peace conference, political sources in Jerusalem said yesterday.

The sources said that three main topics will be at the center of Baker's talks here: Israel's reservations about the proposed U.S. version of the memorandum of understanding between the two countries; the formulation of the letters of invitation to the peace conference; and finalizing the matter of Palestinian representation.

Jerusalem political sources made it clear yesterday that, in the meeting with Baker, Israel will submit a protest against what it views as "indirect but unconcealed negotiations" that the United States is conducting with the PLO via Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi. [passage omitted]

Disappointment Over U.S. Reaction to Iraqi Claim

TA0910060991 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
9 Oct 91 p A1

[Report by Ori Nir, 'Aqiva Eldar, and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] The United States yesterday delivered a sharp protest to Israel, demanding that it stop flying aircraft over Iraqi airspace and refrain from initiating any military action against Iraq. This was reported yesterday in Washington following the publication of the official Iraqi complaint to the UN Security Council regarding the entry of Israeli fighter planes into Iraqi air space. [passage omitted]

Political sources in Jerusalem yesterday evening expressed disappointment with the U.S. reaction to the Iraqi complaint. The sources asserted that the United States is not missing any opportunity to criticize Israel and its demand that Israel stop the reconnaissance patrols is unjustified in light of the discoveries made by the UN teams on Iraq's nuclear activity and the facts revealed by these teams regarding the existence of an offensive potential against Israel. Jerusalem sources believe that there is no room to forbid Israel from taking actions that are meant to guarantee its security interests, especially in light of the international community's inability to block Iraq's hostile designs on Israel.

Official elements in Israel yesterday evening refused to either confirm or deny Iraq's claim regarding the overflights. Dani Nave, the defense minister's media adviser, said: "I have no comment. Israel is not interested in responding to the Iraqi claim." Senior IDF [Israel Defense Forces] sources said that "Israel does not deal with the verification of information arriving from Iraq, and in accordance with its policy will not react." Air Force sources also refused to either confirm or deny the Iraqi complaint. Official U.S. Government spokesmen and the Israeli Embassy spokesmen in Washington also responded with "no comment." [passage omitted]

Shamir Aide on Memo, Iraqi Incident

TA0910082391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0600 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Telepone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Mikha Friedman—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, Mr. Ben-Aharon.

[Ben-Aharon] Good morning.

[Friedman] While trying to get you this morning, we heard about the U.S. protest of Israeli Air Force flights over Iraq. Were we perhaps right in linking that protest with the current state of Israeli-U.S. relations?

[Ben-Aharon] It is possible to link whatever one wants to link. I cannot say anything about the reported protest about the flight, beyond saying what we all know, that our security establishment will do everything necessary to defend the State of Israel, its citizens, and its borders.

[Friedman] We once thought that the Americans accepted that.

[Ben-Aharon] I hope and assume that they continue to accept it.

[Friedman] Despite those protests?

[Ben-Aharon] Yes.

[Friedman] We already know officially that Secretary Baker will arrive in Israel on the last leg of his Middle East tour, at least according to what has been reported in Washington. Does Israel now fear a situation in which he will only bring here an invitation but no memorandum of understanding or even a letter of assurances?

[Ben-Aharon] No, I do not know where that version comes from. For three or four months we have been in contact with the U.S. Administration to work out understandings on the circumstances under which we will join

the process. In order words, to reaffirm things promised to us in the past about the link between negotiations with the Arab states and other activity—such as no Security Council intervention—and reaffirmation of known U.S. positions about our status on the Golan Heights as well as understandings about the conduct of the conference and the direct negotiations that will follow. I cannot imagine that all that will be thrown into the sea and the administration will make do only with an invitation because there must be some sort of basis of understanding about who is convening, the aim of the gathering, how long afterward direct negotiations will begin, and where the direct negotiations will take place. All those things have been the focus of the discussions.

[Friedman] But there is a feeling that the Americans have gone back on points on which agreement had already been reached and which helped the prime minister and the government say yes to Baker's questions—we are going back several months—such as Israel's right to veto the composition of the Palestinian delegation.

[Ben-Aharon] I do not know where that feeling comes from. I am not aware, at least up to this moment, that the United States has gone back on agreements reached when it began this process during Secretary Baker's first or second shuttle trip. These are mainly based on the Camp David accords, which in reference to Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip refer to negotiations with the Arab inhabitants of the territories for the purpose of implementing a two-stage plan while at the same time holding direct negotiations with each of the Arab states—Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan—without the intervention of any foreign element. As far as I know, that is still valid.

[Friedman] Will Israel be able to sign a memorandum of understanding in which the Americans say that the Golan Heights and the territories are matters to be settled in negotiations and that it views the return of territories as part of a peace settlement?

[Ben-Aharon] Those are long known U.S. positions. The United States wants to please both sides, to reassure them about its position, so it says: We will give Israel what pleases it. In other words, President Ford's memorandum to Prime Minister Rabin in 1975, which states that the United States will attach great weight to Israel's position that it must remain on the Golan Heights, while at the same time telling the Arabs side: We support the interpretation of Resolution 242 about territories in return for peace. I suppose that it does not satisfy either us or the Arabs. We could have done without both statements and gone directly to the principle of direct negotiations, but since the United States did it, the negotiations are going on, meandering, and are still not completed. It is possible that we will come to a conclusion next week.

[Friedman] Will Israel attend an opening conference of the type agreed upon, a regional conference or a conference under any other name, without a memorandum of understanding or letter of assurances?

[Ben-Aharon] To repeat, I do not know where that hypothesis came from, therefore I cannot discuss it. I say once again that it is inconceivable that there will not be an understanding with the United States before we convene in a regional conference.

[Friedman] You mean an understanding in writing?

[Ben-Aharon] It does not matter. By the way, there is a lot of confusion, and the public must be getting confused, about all the talk in the media about a memorandum of understanding, a letter of assurances, a memorandum of agreements, or an exchange of letters. All these are legal expressions aimed at reaching an understanding with validity for both sides, in this instance Israel and the United States. The main thing, of course, is the contents.

Netanyahu on U.S. Ties, Iraqi Protest

TA0910072291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Hayim Zissowitz—live]

[Text] [Zissowitz] Good morning, Deputy Foreign Minister Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good morning.

[Zissowitz] Will Israel agree to a U.S. request to give up on the memorandum of understanding and any letters of agreement and get down to the conference if such a demand is presented by Secretary of State Baker?

[Netanyahu] We reached a series of agreements with the United States after many talks with the highest levels in the U.S. Administration. These agreements are not on trivial matters, they determine the framework and thereby all the substance of the negotiations. I cannot imagine that such detailed commitments given orally will not be given in writing. We expect the United States to fulfill the role of an impartial mediator. If the status of the United States is weakened, it will have a very sharp impact on the process, first and foremost because it will harden Arab positions and, I believe, will almost foil any possibility of reaching an agreement during the negotiations.

[Zissowitz] The United States, as we have just heard, dispatched a sharp warning not to fly over Iraq in the wake of an Iraqi complaint about an overflight by Israeli F-15's. How should we take the U.S. warning, especially in view of the reports by UN inspectors about the development of weapons of mass destruction by Iraq?

[Netanyahu] First, I cannot confirm the report, but I can tell you something in general. We are situated in a hostile region, in which the main threat is aimed at us, a threat to our very existence. Israel showed maximum restraint—which I can say with certainty astonished the entire world, which had expected a different response during the Gulf war. Israel is responsible for its security, and Israel will take the necessary steps to assure its security.

[Zissowitz] And such a U.S. warning not to fly over Iraq, if it did come, should it be seen as insensitivity to Israel's security needs, or perhaps something even graver?

[Netanyahu] I am not going to analyze something I am not prepared to confirm to you, so I will make do with what I have just told you.

[Zissowitz] To conclude, another issue, the settlement in Silwan by students of the 'Ateret Kohanim Yeshiva last night. Do you see any link between this settlement and the upcoming peace conference?

[Netanyahu] I cannot say anything to you because I learned about that settlement from your correspondent only five minutes before it was broadcast. The government cannot, of course, provide you with an evaluation because this is not a government operation. There is no dispute about the right of Jews to settle and live in the heart of Judaea, but I would not draw political conclusions, as you are possibly trying to do, because it is not a political move. I would like, however, to say that this or other events and the incorrect analyses of them must not divert attention from the main point, which is what we have been trying to do for many years—including in recent months—to reach a real breakthrough on peace with the Arabs. That breakthrough must come through direct negotiations. The main pressure, the main action, must be directed at bringing about that outcome. That is the aim of all discussions with the United States, and via them also with the Arabs, to reach direct negotiations.

[Zissowitz] Nevertheless, it is difficult to eliminate the impression that one hand does not know—or at least does not confirm—what the other is doing. The settlers arrived armed with permission from the construction and housing minister, as Knesset Member Mikha'el Eytan confirmed, and the police evacuated them.

[Netanyahu] I cannot express an opinion about something I have just heard about, but I would like to say again that the issue of this settlement, like other settlements, does not touch on the source of the problem, which is that the Arabs still refuse to sit with us in direct negotiations. Up to this moment, we have no confirmation of what Syria intends to do, for instance. What I have been hearing in recent days, perhaps as a result of a Syrian analysis of the U.S. position, is a hardening of Syrian positions. Syria is now saying, contrary to what it had said earlier, that it insists on a withdrawal from the territories before negotiations. That is not the way to reach a breakthrough on peace. The main problem, therefore, is not to demand an absense of preconditions from Israel, but rather direct negotiations with no preconditions, including any on settlement in Eretz Yisra'el.

Palestinians Questioned, Allowed To Leave Country

TA0810152991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] During police interrogation today, Faysal al-Husayni and Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi resorted to the right to remain silent. They said in a news conference that when asked by interrogators whether they had traveled to Algiers and conveyed messages to the PLO, they replied that they have not violated the law.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the interrogators did not confiscate al-Husayni and 'Ashrawi's passports, and tomorrow the two will make their planned trip to Washington to meet with James Baker. Nevertheless, to ensure that they will report for questioning whenever asked by the police, the two were required to post personal bond of 5,000 shekels.

Al-Husayni stressed that the Palestinians were waiting for Baker's replies to questions conveyed to him a long time ago.

Depart To Discuss Peace Talks With Baker

TA0910084391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] A Palestinian delegation left for Washington this morning to confer tomorrow with Secretary of State James Baker. The Palestinians presented Baker with several questions on three issues that are still pending but which need to be resolved prior to the convening of the peace conference. Moti Amir, our correspondent in the territories, reports:

Faysal al-Husayni, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, and Dr. Zakariyya al-Agha left for Washington as planned this morning. The members of the delegation announced last night that they will discuss with Baker the third version of the draft document of assurances in the hope that it will be the best and final draft before the peace conference convenes. Faysal al-Husayni and Dr. 'Ashrawi believe that since their last meeting with Baker significant progress has been made in the peace process. The Palestine National Council resolutions are, in their view, a historic breakthrough. The two stressed that in their talks with Baker they will make clear the importance of the resolutions for the future of the Middle East and the future of the Palestinians and Israelis. Dr. 'Ashrawi said last night that the delegation is not demanding preconditions from the United States but is interested in reaching an understanding with it on the issues that will form the basis for discussions in the conference. Prime Minister Shamir is presenting absurd conditions to the Americans, she said.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording in English] And I think that he has no lack of excuses or pretexts in order to either try to sabotage the process before it starts or in order to derail it once it starts. [end recording]

There is no doubt that as we come closer to the convening of the peace conference, the Palestinians are trying to appear more optimistic, although their three main problems have not be resolved: the right of self-determination, international legitimacy, including the issue of East Jerusalem, and a settlement freeze. East Jerusalem sources do not believe that the members of the delegation will receive from the Americans a document

of assurances that will enable the Palestinians to join a conference without concern. It seems that the Palestinians, like Israel, are concerned about surprises the Americans might be preparing during the conference.

Meridor on Need To Agree on Issues in Advance

TA0810171791 Tel Aviv Educational Television Network in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Interview with Justice Minister Dan Meridor by Dan Shilon—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Shilon] Minister Meridor, do you share the assessment that there is an outright rift with the United States?

[Meridor] No, I do not. However, I must say the following: First of all, I hope sincerely that we are on the brink of a new era to be launched at the conference, after which negotiations will be held between us and the Arabs. This is a great thing—if it takes place. The second thing, however, is no less important. The closer we are to negotiations, the more differences emerge—with which we are familiar—differences between us and the Arabs, between us and the Americans. There are differences on the most consequential questions which are bound to be crucial to Israel's security. The emergence of these differences was to be expected, and we have to get used to the fact that while we could live with them in the past because they were irrelevant, they will become relevant if negotiations are held. In any event, only Israel can make decisions on issues pertaining to its security and its ability to defend itself. No one else can make those decisions for us; no one is as qualified as we are, and no one else will have to live with the results. [passage omitted]

[Shilon] More and more people are saying that the United States will in the end send out invitations without prior coordination of their wording. We heard that a draft has been received, but it is still not an actual invitation. Will Israel go to a conference on the basis of invitations which have not been coordinated with it?

[Meridor] I do not think it is likely that invitations to a conference will be issued without coordination with the invited parties. In any event, we must remember that the conference is not the main thing, and therefore, the invitations are not the main thing. The main goal is to reach an understanding that a day or two after this encounter, direct negotiations with the Arabs will begin. I wish to point out that this has not been settled as yet. There is a need to reach an understanding—with the Syrians, for example, that we wish to sit with them two days after the encounter, just as the Americans have suggested, so as to reach an agreement on a peace treaty between them and us. In such meetings, all the open questions will be on the agenda, but the goal will have to be a peace treaty. Have the Syrians agreed to that yet? This must be agreed on prior to the encounter.

As for talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, it must be clear that we are coming to talk about self-government, which has already been proposed and which is the basis of the plan.

There will be meetings of multilateral committees, with all the Middle East countries participating, about regional security, water, and other issues. Various details should be clear and agreed on in advance: the place of meetings, who is meeting with whom, and when.

This whole thing is not just a composition for a television or newspaper report, or for an election campaign. We really and truly want to launch a new move that will eventually bring peace, and it should be seriously prepared.

[Shilon] Listening to you, I get the impression that the time schedule the United States is building on leaves no chance for this conference and these negotiations to start on time.

[Meridor] If the United States treats the matter seriously, which I hope it does; if it adheres to its original stands, that is, if it does not intervene, or tell the sides their stands, or come in their place, or replace them—if it merely brings the sides to the table and speaks plainly to the Arabs—the Syrians, Jordanians, and the others—there is a chance that, assuming the Arabs are indeed willing to get things going, we will be able to convene the opening session and then to start negotiations within a few weeks. [passage omitted]

Commentary Sees U.S. Pressure on Economy

TA0810164491 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (MAMON supplement) in Hebrew 8 Oct 91 pp 1, 2

[Commentary by Washington-based correspondent Rami Tal: "They Grabbed Us by Our Economy"]

[Text] A lot has already been said about the political price Israel is and will be paying for the settlements in the territories. Recently, however, it became apparent that Israel will also have to pay an incredible economic price. It is not certain that Israel will be able to pay such a heavy price, even less certain that the Israeli leadership understands the extent of the economic trouble it is pushing Israel into.

The issue in question is the shattering of Israel's image on international money markets, so that the state being seen as a very high busines risk for investments or loans.

Over the past several weeks, serious U.S. papers have been flooded with numerous reports, research, findings, and comment on the Israeli economy:

—THE NEW YORK TIMES stated that since 1967 Israel has received U.S. aid to the tune of $77 billion in today's terms.

—A lethal report of the U.S. Government Export-Import Bank [Ex-Im], compiled in July and kept secret until now, suddenly found its way to the WASHINGTON POST editorial room.

—Another report by the Congressional Research Service, also very critical of the Israeli economy, was leaked to the press hours after being delivered to Congress.

—Very negative articles were also published by NEWSWEEK, BUSINESS WEEK, TIME, and others.

One conclusion emerges from all of these publications: There is no chance that Israel will be able to repay the extra $10 billion worth of credit it is now asking the United States to guarantee.

One would be naive not to see the guiding hand behind those publications. This is not to say that President Bush personally gave an order to release the damaging data, but officials in the U.S. Administration officials do not need explicit orders. It is enough that they saw the President in a coast-to-coast news conference pledging to conduct a stubborn and uncompromising struggle to defer discussion of the Israeli request for guarantees, while clearly hinting that the reason is his rage over the settlements. After that broadcast, the officials were well aware of the President's will, and the leaks started.

The President did not begin this battle simply to win a freeze in settlements, though that is a very important goal. He has a wider purpose: to damage significantly Israeli influence on U.S. foreign policy. That influence is largely based on Israel's image in the United States: a democratic, stable country, which is industrialized and advanced, and which has a more-or-less free economy. One of the means to damage this image is to portray Israel as a socialist state (a horrible nickname these days) with some of the world's most extensive government involvement in the economy.

Israel's status in international money markets is being determined by a long series of economic, political, and social factors: gross national product; domestic and foreign debts; forecasted economic trends for the next few years (mainly the level of economic growth); exports, imports, and their balance; chances of war; political stability; capital investment in infrastructure, new factories, professional, education, and technological development; and, naturally, Israel's record of meeting deadlines in paying debts.

Over the past 20 years, one of the elements that contributed to Israel's strong status in world capital markets has been the assumption of banks, economic bodies, and countries that Israel has a rich and supportive uncle, called Sam. The world assumed that this uncle would not abandon Israel in times of trouble.

The assumption went something like this: The United States has an elementary political and strategic interest in Israel. It will in no way allow Israel to fall into a serious economic crisis. If Israel collapses or comes close to a collapse, the United States will intervene and rescue it. Since Israel's ability to survive economically depends on a continuing flow of credit, the United States will have to see to it that Israel pays its foreign debts on time. A loan to Israel could therefore be considered a low risk, not only because of the objective facts of the Israeli market, but because of a secret U.S. commitment.

This assumption was convincingly proved true in 1985, when Uncle Sam gave Israel $1.5 billion in emergency aid to ease the shock of the new economic plan that rescued Israel from spiraling inflation.

When unpleasant noises come from the U.S.-Israeli relationship, however, the world money markets lose faith in this assumption. Listing the risks involved in granting loans to Israel, the Ex-Im Bank report explicitly states: "Israel's insistence on setting up settlements in the territories might cool down the relations and torpedo its request for $10 billion worth of guarantees for construction loans. It should be noted that President Bush declared that the construction of settlements in the territories is the single largest obstacle to peace in the region."

It is true that the battle over the guarantees is not all about the settlements. Foreign aid has never been popular in the United States. (Honestly, which one of us Israelis would be willing to give distant countries billions of dollars each year?) The President is willing to be attentive to those who claim that foreign aid must be slashed in favor of domestic needs. He also knows that soon the United States will have to start helping the USSR to revive its economy, and he wants to cut back on other expenses.

Israel maintains that it is not asking for additional grants, only for guarantees, but that claim is widely doubted here. First, according to a new U.S. law, any guarantees the administration gives must also be included in the federal budget. Second, many in the administration express doubts concerning Israel's ability to repay the loans it will be taking, based on the guarantees, without a massive infusion of additional aid.

The Ex-Im Bank report mentions in this context the terrifying word "rescheduling" [previous word in English]. Bankers shiver when they hear it. It means a reassignment of debts, a new plan for repayment of foreign debts. This is what happens when a country fails to meet the original repayment plan determined when the credit is issued. Rescheduling of debts often causes heavy losses to the creditor, bank or country.

Many developing countries in the world have undergone the humiliating process of rescheduling. Banks that had given them credit were severely burned. The reports about Israel shown here suggest that there is a real possibility that Israel will not be able to repay its debt. In Israel's case, rescheduling will not hurt the lending banks, but the one who gave the guarantees for them: the U.S. Administration.

At the same time, let us make no mistake: This is not an objective game. If Bush had thought that Israel was showing the appropriate flexibility in the political process, and if Shamir had given him what he wants—a temporary freeze of the settlement drive—things would look entirely different. Bush would have signaled Congress that he wants the guarantees approved, and they would have gone through "like a knife through butter," as a central Jewish activist here said. As long as the political process drags on—which, as Bush sees it, is Shamir's fault—and as long as settlement activity continues at its hasty pace, the administration will fight the guarantees, while taking steps that will seriously damage Israel's economic status around the world.

Last July, Ambassador Shoval said: "The Israeli Government will soon have to make a choice—settlements or guarantees." He was severely reprimanded by the prime minister for telling the truth. Today, it is becoming apparent that continuing the settlement drive will drag us—slowly, perhaps, but surely—to an absolute destabilization of our status in the world credit markets.

Editorial Sees U.S. Pressure in 'Every Area'

TA0810125491 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Oct 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Marked: Insufficient Funds"]

[Text] One more U.S. check has bounced. It was stamped: "insufficient funds." Jerusalem's interpretation of this—that Congress' decision not to approve the supplementary military aid to Israel is divorced from the loan guarantee affair—is insignificant. The linkage in this context is not with the loan guarantees but with the Gulf war. There is nothing we can do about it, but it seems that even the U.S. "landlord" should have been asked to pay in cash, there and then, even at the height of the Gulf war. Now it looks like we will not receive the supplementary aid, and the reason for it is really not important. The simple fact is that the United States is applying heavy pressure on us in every area and at every opportunity, and we had better realize this instead of glossing it over. The rainy season has not yet started, so what the United States is showering us with is not raindrops.

Bethlehem Mayor Briefs Arens on Talks

TA0810055091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens conferred earlier this week with Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj. The two discussed the peace process. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the meeting in the minister's office in Tel Aviv was also attended by the deputy coordinator of government activities in the territories and the head of the Judaea and Samaria Civil Administration. Ilyas Frayj briefed the minister on his meetings in Washington during his latest visit to the United States and on his meeting with Jordan's King Husayn.

Jordan's Jerusalem Candidate for Delegation Named

TA0910125791 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 9 Oct 91 p 4

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari and Yosi 'En-Dor]

[Excerpt] Jordan has proposed to the PLO the candidacy of Anwar al-Khatib as the East Jerusalem representative in the joint delegation. Our correspondent has learned this from Palestinian sources in East Jerusalem. Al-Khatib was the governor of Jerusalem for Jordan as well as a Jordanian minister, and he still lives in Jerusalem. Jordan asked that other personages, such as Hazim Nusaybah, be included in the delegation, but the PLO was opposed since they no longer live in Jerusalem but in Jordan. This was discussed in the course of the visit to Amman by a PLO delegation headed by 'Abd-Rabbuh a few days ago. The sources said that this time the Palestinians did not oppose the Jordanian proposal, and the matter will be discussed by the PLO Executive Committee in Tunis. According to the sources, 'Arafat will arrive in Amman in the coming days, this time bringing with him the names of the Palestinian candidates for the delegation. 'Arafat will want to establish facts before Baker's visit to Israel. [passage omitted]

Settlers Evacuated From Houses in East Jerusalem

LD0910054391 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Students of the 'Ateret Kohanim Yeshiva who broke into several houses in Silwan in East Jerusalem are now being evacuated. The settlers arrived at the site with the permission of Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon. Our correspondents Mira Amsalem and Gil Litman report that the houses were under the authority of the custodian of abandoned Arab property and had been transferred to the Amidar Building Company.

Dozens of settlers participated in the operation. They brought sleeping gear and food in dozens of vehicles and some were armed with orders confirming their ownership of the houses. They were accompanied by Likud Knesset Member Mikha'el Eytan and were later joined by Minister Yuval Ne'eman of Tehiya.

Police Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner said that the settlers were evacuated this morning. He noted that the evacuation has been generally free of clashes. Terner stressed that it was decided to evacuate the settlers because it is a sensitive issue and these are very sensitive times.

Yig'al Qeynan, the settlers' spokesman, said that there is no link between the timing of the operation and the peace conference. The Netivot Shalom movement denounced the settlers' invasion of property. Movement spokesman Yonatan Flusser told our correspondent Mikha'el Tuchfeld that it is yet another attempt to foil the peace.

Likud 'Embarrassment' Over Settlement

TA0910121791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] Embarrassment is the word in Likud circles over the Silwan settlement. The staunchest supporters of settlement activity during different times say the timing here was awful in this stage of the peace process considering Israeli-U.S. relations and that Secretary of State Baker is due here at the beginning of the week. Words like stupidity and political disaster have been heard coming from Likud Knesset members [MK's]. Deputy Defense Minister 'Ovadya 'Eli of the Likud has spoken out against the overnight move, and among the smaller coalition partners, Rabbi Moshe Gafni of Degel Hatora condemned it, despite, he said, the right of Jews to live in Jerusalem.

Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon, at the center of the storm, has released a statement saying only that it is the right of Jews to live anywhere in united Jerusalem, the capital of Israel, as anywhere else in the Land of Israel. In the Prime Minister's Office, the response was: Do you think the police would have acted this morning to remove the settlers if this was a move supported by the government? There have been a number of requests to convene the Knesset Interior Committee. Acting Committee Chairman MK Yehoshu'a Perah of the Likud visited the area this morning. Meanwhile, reporters here at the Knesset received an anonymous pamphlet entitled: City of David, Wellspring of Jerusalem, describing the historic Jewish presence in the area.

From within the opposition there is a demand to fire Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon and Minister Yuval Ne'eman of Tehiya, whose party's MK's have been at the settlement.

Experts Studying Settlers' House Titles

TA0910115891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] An agreement was reached in Silwan according to which four Knesset members [Mikha'el Eytan, Ge'ula Kohen, Gershon Shafat, Elyaqim Ha'etzni] and some of the settlers will remain in Meyuhas House while the other house in which the settlers have been holed up will be evacuated.

Police Affairs Minister Roni Milo told our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum said the arrangement was reached with the knowledge of the prime minister. The attorney general was asked to study the legal aspects of the situation, and his opinion will decide the matter. Milo said legal principles, such as the authority to evacuate Knesset members, will also be studied. Milo believes any controversy over Jerusalem is superfluous these days and that there is no need for a demonstrative settlement coming like a thief in the dark.

Police Commissioner Ya'aqov Terner told our correspondent that it was agreed that the settlers will be evacuated in the very near future and that he does not expect any problems during the evacuation. Silwan is now quiet, and the police are ready for any gatherings or rioting.

Yosi Ahime'ir, the director of the prime minister's bureau, said that there is no need for demonstrations in Jerusalem and that the settlers' action in Silwan is superfluous. He told our correspondent Arye Golan that the matter must be studied from a legal viewpoint. The authorities must find out whether the settlers have proof of their title to the houses they seized last night, and that is now being investigated. Ahime'ir stressed that the affair has nothing whatsoever to do with the upcoming visit to the region by Secretary Baker and that Israel will continue to work with him to advance peace.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1105 on 9 October, which carries a similar report, also quotes Ahime'ir as saying that "Yitzhaq Shamir believes that on this morning's issue we should act according to the law since in Jerusalem, which is entirely under Israeli sovereignty, there is no need for demonstrations." The report also quotes "those close to Yitzhaq Shamir" as stressing that "in Jerusalem there are no settlements. The capital of Israel is not Judaea and Samaria. From Israel's viewpoint, there is no question mark over Jerusalem. It will not be discussed in the peace negotiations, so any settling in the City of David, which is Silwan, has nothing to do with Baker's upcoming visit."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1100 GMT on 9 October says that "police have already cleared settlers from four of the 26 houses over which they claim title after lengthy negotiations with police."]

Chief of Staff Delays Golan Housing Construction

TA0810153291 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 8 Oct 91 pp 1, 4

[Report by Avi Bnayahu]

[Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq has for several months been holding up work to add another 1,000 housing units in the settlement of Qatzrin on the Golan Heights. Sources at the Qatzrin local council are claiming that the chief of staff is not authorizing the building increments even after residents appealed to the construction and housing minister on this matter. Minister Sharon even spoke with the chief of staff about it.

Qatzrin residents claimed that the additional 1,000 housing units were necessary for the development of the town and that the site proposed by the council is almost the only site that can be developed to expand Qatzrin.

In response to 'AL HAMISHMAR's query, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman replied that the chief of staff represents the IDF's position on the issue and that the construction of housing units along the lines proposed by the Qatzrin council would prevent the army from continuing to hold Merkava tank firing exercises on the Golan Heights.

IDF sources asserted that the army cannot give up its training areas on the Golan Heights, even if this hinders the development of Qatzrin. The IDF spokesman confirmed that the chief of staff had met with Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon on this matter and presented his positions.

The construction and housing minister proposed that his ministry examine the possibility of building some housing units with the appropriate acoustic insulation, which would reduce the degree of aggravation the designated residents of those units would suffer from the noise.

After the Construction and Housing Ministry concludes its examination and presents its results to the IDF, the army will reexamine its position on the matter," the IDF spokesman reported. [no opening quotation masks as published]

Senior army sources said that Qatzrin could not add 1,000 housing units and that the army would be willing to accept a compromise if the Construction and Housing Ministry's probe showed this to be possible.

Planning Minister on Golan Settlements

TA0810142191 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Oct 91 p 2

[Report by Shim'on Weiss]

[Text] Construction was begun on 1,482 housing units on the Golan Heights during the past year. There are plans for approximately 1,800 new housing units to be built in Qatzrin and approximately 1,200 housing units in agricultural settlements in the area. Economics and Planning Minister David Magen announced this in a meeting with Golan settlement leaders and with the Galilee council.

In the meeting it was decided that the Galilee council would also handle issues pertaining to the Golan settlements and that it would be the official body in charge of both areas. Magen pointed out that the government approves of this decision. It was further agreed that the next meeting of the Galilee council would take place in Qatzrin and discuss multiyear development plans for the Golan Heights.

The Galilee council is currently formulating proposals for new projects in the Galilee and the Golan Heights in the fields of industry, housing, welfare, and education.

The economics and planning minister promised that his ministry would act to expedite the establishment of industrial factories in Qatzrin's industrial zone and also in Mahanayim, which is situated in the southern part of the Golan Heights, on Mt. Hermon, and on the northeastern shore of Lake Tiberias.

Magen also promised to increase the milk and turkey quotas for the Golan Heights settlements and at the same time to drill new wells in the Galilee and Golan Heights to increase the water supply.

Special Incentives Offered West Bank Settlers

TA0810141491 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Oct 91 p 6

[Report by Hagar Enosh]

[Text] People who settle in Ari'el are offered a new incentive: a special 12,100-shekel grant, plus a 37,900-shekel loan at 4.5 percent interest in a form of assistance called a "location loan."

Inside the Green Line, similar terms are offered in eight settlements, all of them more distant from the center of the country than Ari'el: Ofaqim, Dimona, Hazor, Tiberias, Netivot, 'Afula, Zefat, and Sederot.

Three other Judaea and Samaria settlements have been added to the list of places whose would-be settlers are eligible for these so-called "location loans": Efrat, Qarney Shomron, and Qiryat Sefer (formerly Netafim). Settlers in those places will receive 50,000 shekels as a "location loan," of which 6,100 shekels are a grant. Qiryat Sefer, which is currently being built close to the trans-Samaria highway and near the Green Line, has also been temporarily elevated to the status of "class B Judaea and Samaria development region."

This means that its residents will be entitled to increased mortgage and grant sums on a par with those given apartment buyers in Bet She'an, Dimona, or Yeroham. The "location loan" in Qiryat Sefer was restricted to the sale of 500 apartments. The Treasury's Accountant General Department and the Housing and Construction Ministry are expected to decide by the end of the week whether the incentives campaign can continue.

Yisra'el Schwarz, head of the Housing and Construction Ministry's Housing Department, explained yesterday that "location loans" are granted from time to time in places, sometimes even neighborhoods, where the state is interested in selling apartments. According to the current arrangement, which is valid through 31 December, these loans are offered to the neighborhoods of Pisgat Ze'ev in Jerusalem and 'Amishav in Petah Tiqva.

Last July "location loans" were approved for 47 locations and neighborhoods inside the Green Line. In view of the growing slump in apartment sales, however, it was decided to append five more venues inside the Green Line: Herzliyya, Rehovot, Nahariyya, Kefar Yona, and Gan Yavne.

Almost Half of Arab Families Below Poverty Line

TA0810143191 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 8 Oct 91 p 4

[Report by 'Ezra Hen]

[Excerpt] Forty-six percent of Arab families in Israel live below the poverty line, as opposed to approximately 8 percent of Jewish families. Arab academics hold only 10 slots out of the 5,000 posts in the academic sector, and

out of the 1,310 senior employees of government institutions, only 17 are Arabs or Druze.

These figures and other data were reported yesterday by the heads of Sikuy [Chance], a new voluntary society established to promote a climate of equal opportunity and to reduce the gap between the Arab and Jewish populations in the country. The founders of the society are Aluf Har'even, a former head of the Van Lir Institute, and Faysal al-'Azayza from the Hebrew University's Social Workers College and a Joint Distribution Agency member.

"The government's allocations to the Jewish local councils are three times higher than those given to the Arab councils; as a result, Arab towns and villages remain seriously backward in housing, employment, welfare services, and more. Many of the Arab settlements in this country are social and economic backwaters," al-'Azayza said. [passage omitted]

Bank of Israel Attacks Government Economic Policy

TA0810150491 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 8 Oct 91 p 22

[Report by Ya'it Fidel]

[Text] The Bank of Israel [BOI] yesterday leveled sharp criticism at the government's economic policy, accusing it of having an unspecified policy of employment and immigrant absorption and of causing inflation. This was said in a survey of companies conducted by the BOI's Research Department during the second quarter of 1991.

The survey claims that most of the inflation is the result of the rises in the prices of housing and government-controlled products that were initiated mainly by the government. Concerning unemployment, the report states that although there was a rise in the number of people employed, there also was a rise in the number of the unemployed, which, in the second quarter of 1991, reached a record of 10.8 percent. The BOI says that the rise in the unemployment figure is in part due to the fact that more people joined the work force. At the same time, it was caused because there is no guidance or comprehensive government policy on employment and immigrant absorption.

The rise in economic activity renewed and even expanded in the second quarter of 1991, and, although a slow-down in this activity was noted in July and August, the general level of market activity is much higher than during the pre-war period.

According to the BOI data, the boost in economic activity was largely attributable to the housing, industry, and trade sectors. At the same time, investments in the market expanded mainly in terms of import of machinery and other equipment. The BOI report also notes an impressive recovery in tourism. According to the survey's data, tourism has regained the level it was at on the eve of the Gulf crisis. In July and August, an average of some 90,000 tourists arrived in Israel by air each month.

The enhanced market activity can also be seen in the fact that during the second quarter of 1991, some 54,000 people were employed, 46,000 of whom joined the business sector that was at a standstill during the previous three quarters. At the same time, the unemployment rate in Israel reached 10.8 percent. This is explained by the fact that many new immigrants joined the civilian job market.

Another negative development was noted in exports. During the period covered in the BOI survey, a drop was noted when compared to the last quarter of 1990. The volume of exports did not change, due mainly to a global slow-down in trade. Furthermore, income from exports dropped, mainly because the European currencies lost value in U.S. dollar terms.

Communist Aide Denies Report of KGB Funding

TA0810152391 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 8 Oct 91 pp 1, 12

[Report from Moscow by Amnon Kapeliuk]

[Excerpts] Since 1987, the KGB has transferred $600,000 annually to RAKAH [New Communist List] as part of the CPSU's assistance to "sister parties."

The money was handed over to the Israeli communist party in cash by KGB emissaries.

In relative terms, RAKAH received the most massive assistance from Moscow. By comparison, the French Communist Party—one of the largest in the West—received $2 million per annum. The communist party in the United States received aid more or less on the same scale.

These disclosures are included in the latest issue of the weekly ROSSIYA, associated with Boris Yeltsin. The weekly reports that a document, dated 25 February 1987, whose file number is NP 54/18, was seized in the CPSU building and lists the sums of money transferred to the various communist parties in the world. [passage omitted]

In reaction to my question, George Tubi, RAKAH's permanent representative in Moscow, said: "I cannot believe what I am hearing: $600,000? You know, such money could have helped alleviate the party's serious situation. During that period, and up until 1990, I served as secretary of the party's Central Committee and head of its foreign relations department, and I declare unswervingly and in all honesty that this is completely untrue. Neither the international department nor the KGB or any other source gave us any money."

According to George Tubi, who is the brother of RAKAH Secretary General Tawfiq Tubi, the revelation in ROSSIYA is "part of a growing coordinated campaign against the CPSU and the communist movement as a whole."

Lebanese Man Released in 'Routine Step'

TA0710174691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has released George Yazbek, a Christian who had been imprisoned for three years. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that Yazbek was detained when working on a vessel that was transporting terrorists to southern Lebanon.

The SLA [South Lebanese Army] headquarters has stated that the release is a routine step not connected with the hostage exchange process. Yazbek was handed over to a Red Cross team in Rosh Haniqra, which transferred him to Tyre.

Peace Activist Jailed for Meeting PLO Personnel

TA0610071391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] A few minutes ago the Ramla Magistrate's Court announced the sentence of [peace activist] Abie Nathan: He received 18 months in prison and 18 months suspended for a total of three years. Abie Nathan was charged with meeting with PLO personnel in Tunis.

'Terrorist Squad' Captured After Killing Citizen

TA0410165091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] The Shin Bet and the police have captured the terrorist squad that last week murdered Shlomo Yihya from Moshav Qadima and planned to murder another Israeli. Our police affairs correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that two of the squad members were captured last night when they encountered a Border Police unit in Tulkarm. They were found in possession of a knife and a homemade gun. During the investigation, it became apparent that one of the terrorists, together with another man, murdered Shlomo Yihya from Qadima. The third member of the squad was detained as well.

It was further learned that the two terrorists last week planned to murder a soldier in the Tulkarm area. When they noticed that there were other soldiers at the site, they gave up on the idea, arrived at Qadima, came across Shlomo Yihya and murdered him. They were on their way to central Israel to murder a Jewish person yesterday as well, when they were captured.

The police spokesman noted that two of the suspects are members of Fatah, and the third is a member of Islamic Jihad. The chief of police and Border Police commander decided to award a citation to the border policemen who captured the terrorists.

Violence Reported in South Lebanon

Explosion Kills SLA Soldier

TA0610084691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] An SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldier was killed this morning in a powerful explosion near the security zone border in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the bomb exploded near the Bayt Yahun pass.

Our correspondent has learned from UNIFIL [UN Interim Force in Lebanon] headquarters that, in reaction, SLA tanks and guns have been firing at terrorist targets north of the security zone.

Our correspondent notes that this is the fourth explosion in the area in the past three days.

Three Bombs in One Day

TA0610152591 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Another bomb exploded on the border of the security zone in southern Lebanon this afternoon. Two SLA [South Lebanese Army] soldiers were slightly injured in the blast. This is the third bomb to go off in the area today.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the bomb went off near an SLA outpost while soldiers were searching the area.

UNIFIL [United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon] headquarters reported that the SLA artillery barrage on the Shiite villages is continuing. An SLA soldier was killed in one of the explosions this morning in southern Lebanon.

150 Immigrants on First Flight From Kishinev

TA0810074091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Last night, 150 new immigrants arrived on the first direct flight from Kishinev. They flew aboard an aircraft belonging to businessman Ya'aqov Nimrodi's Aerolikht company. The new immigrants reported that these flights are in high demand and that they are fully booked through the end of next month.

Country Elected to Presidency of Ecology Body

TA0810153691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Israel has been elected to the presidency of Mediterranean states' organization for environmental affairs, which is now convening in Cairo, along with Egypt, Tunisia, and Monaco. Yig'al Bibi, head of the Israeli delegation, who is also the deputy minister of ecology and environmental protection, told our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling that the unanimous election of Israel shows that the member countries are aware of Israel's contribution to environmental protection.

The 18-country organization addresses environmental problems of the Mediterranean basin.

House Speaker Reacts to Deputies' Petition

JN0810193191 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] We begin from Amman where House of Representatives Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyat spoke to our program about the recent position of a number of deputies toward the government. Dr. 'Arabiyat said:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. First I would like to point out that we are, thank God, in a democratic country led by a wise leadership which takes all facts into consideration, both inside and outside the country. We, thank God, are proud of this good democratic march, and of the march toward building a modern country through institutionalized practices.

In this regard, I refer to the petition presented by approximately 50 deputies calling on the government to resign. In fact, this in itself is a democratic, normal, and ordinary action. I would like to say that at this particular time from 1 October to 1 December—the period granted by the constitution to his majesty whereby the king has the right to postpone opening the ordinary session for two months. His majesty the king used this constitutional right, so the ordinary session was postponed from 1 October to 1 December. During this period, which is the House vacation, it is impermissible to call for convening an extraordinary session to discuss the issue of confidence in the government. What came in the deputies' petitions was a mere political announcement, not a constitutional measure. It is impermissible to adopt such a measure at this particular time. It is also impermissible to discuss it before it is officially announced. It is impermissible to discuss it before 1 December before the beginning of the ordinary session. This is from the constitutional point of view.

From a realistic and practical point of view, as I have said, we in this country are proud of the organized democratic spirit and the wise leadership which runs the affairs of this country. We need the cooperation of all people to clarify the bases, common denominators, and basic features by which all people must work to easily absorb all diverse opinions on emergency issues or major constant issues in order to unify all efforts in the service of this country, and to confront the challenges facing this country and the entire region.

Therefore, we consider these democratic practices as normal and ordinary. The constitution is very clear regarding the measures that can be taken. As I have said, nothing can be done during this period when the house is on vacation. However, expressing an opinion is the natural right of the deputies and others. We have no doubt that everyone is working for the good and interest of this country. We are proud of our legislative institutions led by the House of Representatives and the legislative branch, which are a basic guarantee for the security of this country, confidence in it, and the cooperation of the sons of the one family under this genuine institutionalized umbrella where, God willing, there will be no major disagreement only competition in the general interest. This is everyone's objective. I think that the issue is a democratic action, an institutionalized move, and an expression of opinion. We are confident that this move is for the general benefit of everyone, and that there is only one objective, which everyone is working to achieve. [end recording]

Cabinet Regrets Petition

JN0910081391 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Oct 91 pp 1, 18

[Text] Amman, PETRA—At a session held yesterday evening, the Council of Ministers reviewed domestic affairs, including the moves by some House members and the reported petition they signed withholding confidence in the government.

[Amman JORDAN TIMES in English on 9 October carries on pages 1 and 5 a similar report on the Council of Ministers session that identifies the following as "a statement issued by the Council of Ministers after a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri Tuesday evening"—8 October]

Despite conflicting statements on this petition and the real number of those who signed it and despite the fact that it was not presented to us, the government would like to clearly emphasize that this method of confusion will lead only to harming the higher intersts of the homeland at a time when all of us say that national unity and both the strength and fortitude of the internal front are two inevitable necessities for confronting the external dangers and the internal problems at these critical times in the history of our homeland and nation.

Such behavior distorts the image of public work in the eyes of the citizens who want the efforts of all those who chose to shoulder the responsibility of representing them to be directed toward confronting the challenges and contributing seriously together with the government to resolving the complicated problems we are facing.

We do not think that the method used by those who signed the petition is constitutional and it is obvious that there are contradictory motives for those who undertook this act. The citizen can perceive these motives with his attentive senses.

It is really painful to see some placing their narrow personal interests over the higher interests of the country at a time when the people and the homeland are facing decisive challenges. By shouldering the responsibility in these circumstances, members of the government are making a sacrifice for the sake of their country. Therefore, we refuse attempts to cast doubt over them or their patriotism, abilities, or intentions. There are limits for accusations and there are limits for disagreement in views and personal judgments. We refuse to go beyond these limits and emphasize the need to observe them and stop at them.

The government, which fully respects and abides by these rules, which are based on morals and honor, will not allow any tampering with or disruption of this country's security and stability.

It will stand firm against favoritism, string-pulling, and violations of law and legislation, believing in the cause for which it came and in what it announced in its policy statement that its goal is serving the homeland and the citizens first and foremost.

The government, which is keen to avoid any contradiction between the executive and legislative authorities, is aware of its responsibilities in preserving the right of the legislative authority to carry out its constitutional duties and is aware at the same time of the limits of interference in its terms of reference as an executive authority responsible for the security of the country and its citizens and providing suitable atmosphere for solving the problems facing this country.

It is high time for all to rise up to the level of the heavy national responsibilities, avoid trifling disputes, consider the perils facing all of us, and realize the reality of regional and international circumstances surrounding us. Our aware people will never forgive those who contribute to wasting the efforts of the faithful and distracting these efforts from heading toward the attainment of the higher national goals.

Report Analyzes Effects of Cabinet Change

JN0510124891 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Oct 91 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—The prime minister, Tahir al-Masri, scored a major political triumph Thursday [3 october] after winning a new mandate for his government by carrying out a reshuffle in which five new ministers were appointed to replace resigning cabinet members.

The limited reshuffle had been one of several options contemplated by the Jordanian leadership to avert a political crisis over the Kingdom's participation in Middle East peace talks.

Among the other options envisaged was the appointment of a new prime minister and government to prepare Jordan for the talks, which are expected to be held late this month.

During the past week, the future of the al-Masri government had hung in the balance as top-level consultations centred on whether "reorganising the Jordanian house" ahead of Arab-Israeli negotiations could be best done by replacing four ministers who had resigned from the cabinet or whether the situation required an altogether new administration headed by a new prime minister.

"The debate was not concluded until Thursday, when Mr. al-Masri was asked to stay on as prime minister and replace those ministers who wanted to step down (their number had by then risen to five as Foreign Minister 'Abdallah al-Nusur also expressed his wish to resign)," a well-informed source said.

"It was a tense week, but things should get better now since the new team should present a stronger front to face both the domestic and negotiations' challenges," the source added.

The reshuffle was quickly criticised by some Jordanian politicians as lacking in depth (since the 18-member Constitution Bloc was not included in it as was widely expected or potentially problematical for the prime minister (since Dr. al-Nusur, who commands respect in the premier's own parliamentary bloc and in the House generally, should have been retained). [parentheses as published]

But a senior cabinet source dismissed the criticism by saying that the incorporation of the Constitution Bloc might have created more problems than it could have solved and that those ministers/deputies who have left the cabinet will not necessarily oppose it.

While the source confirmed that consideration was given to incorporating members of the Constitution Bloc into the cabinet this time around "it was decided that the time was not opportune for complete government restructuring along the traditional lines." Furthermore, the source continued, everybody in the Consitution Bloc, which is headed by Dhuqan al-Hindawi, might have not been pleased by the appointment of one or more of his colleagues and not himself or others who are close to him. "It is not as if the Constitution Bloc is as organised and homogeneous as the Muslim Brotherhood group," he explained.

The senior cabinet official, however, maintained that Mr. al-Masri's government was assured of the continued support of the same parliamentary and political forces which stood behind it when the cabinet presented itself for a confidence vote in June, and that the situation was not going to change as a result of this cabinet reshuffle.

Commenting on Dr. al-Nusur's resignation from the cabinet, a well-informed source confirmed that the deputy from al-Salt had resigned his ministerial post after his request that the reshuffle bring in a minister of state for foreign affairs who would lead the Jordanian delegation to the conference was denied.

"Al-Nusur wanted to remain in the cabinet as foreign minister but did not want to be part of the negotiating team," an official source told the JORDAN TIMES. "A government cannot be structured to suit the interests of one of its members," the official added.

In explaining their optimism on continued support for the government in the House, senior officials referred to statements by outgoing ministers during cabinet meetings in which they underlined their understanding of the political realities which confront Jordan and the need to deal with them in a pragmatic manner.

Outgoing ministers Muhammad Faris al-Tarawinah, Salim al-Zu'bi and Dr. al-Nusur, the official said "fully understood Jordan's postion and the necessity of entering peace negotiations." But, he added, "although it was a political decision is was also personal."

Mr. al-Tarawinah, in one cabinet meeting was reported by sources as saying that in spite of his conviction that Jordan was on the right track in participating in the peace conference "if goes against my personal ideological dream."

Cabinet members as well as several observers who were contacted by the JORDAN TIMES be believed that the decision to expedite the cabinet reshuffle and providing it with clear political objectives "will contribute to a more concrete and cohesive government" and its members will be able to direct closer attention to domestic affairs.

Officials said they believed the limited cabinet reshuffle was sufficient to "remove this could that overshadowed our thinking during the past weeks over the peace process." [sentence as published]

One official said that the ministers can now concentrate on their domestic duties "as things have now become clearer."

The senior cabinet source pointed to the "mood of tension" which permeated both public and official circles before the Palestine National Council (PNC) announced its decision to welcome peace efforts and make plans for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. "The mood was somewhat tense because of the political situation," the source said.

"It is a new reality for the region to deal with and it was not easy for individuals (in the cabinet) to accept."

He pointed out that since Mr. al-Masri formed his first government in June "the larger number among cabinet members had slowly accepted the new realities and adapted to them and that is precisely why most of them stayed."

Now, officials say, the atmosphere has changed and has become more relaxed, especially that the "Palestinians themselves have accepted the idea and are willing to enter into negotiations."

"They have taken a decision that we cannot discuss or add to and this has helped tremendously in easing the tension among people," the source said.

Jordan-PLO Talks Begin on Joint Delegation

JN0510094691 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Oct 91 pp 1,5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter Lamis K. Andoni]

[Text] Amman—Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have started talks over the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the Middle East conference which is supposed to convene late this month, according to Jordanian and Palestinian sources.

The sources, however, said that the two sides are still trying to reach agreement or common understanding regarding the terms of Palestinian participation.

The talks, which started on Thursday night, followed a decision by the Palestine National Council (PNC) to authorise Palestinian participation in the peace process and a limited reshuffle in the cabinet of Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri.

According to the PNC declaration, the PLO leadership will give its final decision on Palestinian participation at the suggested conference in the light of "objectives" that have to be achieved prior to the convening of the parley.

PLO officials have repeatedly said that the organisation accepts the formation of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation provided the terms of Palestinian participation were viewed as adequate.

On Friday Palestinian officials told the Jordan Times that the organisation was hoping that Jordan would agree to the terms for Palestinian paticipation as outlined by the PNC.

The PNC has demanded that the PLO appoint the Palestinian delegates and determine the Palestinian negotiating position throughout the peace talks.

Jordan's new foreign Minister, Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir who was appointed Thursday, told the Jordan Times that the PLO delegation presented a briefing on the outcome of the PNC meeting and discussed various issues related to the peace process but did not go into specifics.

New Information Minister Mahmud al-Sharif, who was also named Thursday and attended the meetings with the PLO team, said that in addition to outlining the results of the PNC meeting the PLO delegation had also discussed "the shape of the political solution" hoped to be achieved through the proposed peace conference.

Another senior source said the talks went very well and that "Jordan and the Palestinian side made major progress."

But, added the source, "there are issues that have to be settled between the PLO and the U.S. administration and therefore some issues have to wait until Washington and the PLO sort out the outstanding topics."

Jordan has said on different occasions that it would accept the PLO choice and that Jordan would not talk on behalf of the Palestinians at the conference.

Dr. Abu-Jabir stressed that Jordan was keen on ensuring the participation of all of the major parties involved at the peace parley.

"Jordan's position towards the peace process is positive. (It) is based on the participation of all parties involved to work together towards achieving a just and comprehensive peace for the middle East conflict and the Palestinian problem," Dr. Abu-Jabir a prominent political scientist, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The PLO, according to the officials, is also seeking a joint Jordanian-Palestinian negotiating position that will call for an immediate freeze to Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. American assurances regarding the Arab status of Eastern Jerusalem and the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Although Jordan has reiterated its commitment to the same demands, it is still unclear if both sides have agreed on pushing for these terms prior to the or at the negotiating table. [sentence as published]

The Palestinian officials said that the PLO believes and insists that a freeze on Israeli settlements should be in place prior to or simultaneously with the beginning of the conference. The PLO, they said, will also demand that the issue concerning the status of Jerusalem be tackled at an early stage of the peace conference and not at a later stage as the Americans have reportedly suggested.

According to the senior source, Jordan believes there is not very much that Jordan and the PLO can do in the quest for reaching agreements on what the Palestinians want to agree on, like the issue of freezing Israeli settlements before negotiations start.

"This is an area where Jordan is unable to do anything," said the source, who preferred anonymity. "The U.S. has to work towards freezing the occupation authorities' settlement activities."

In a statement he gave two weeks ago, when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker visited Jordan, Prime Minister al-Masri implied that Jordan would not stipulate a freeze on settlements prior to the conference but would strongly press the issues as a number one priority at the beginning of the parley.

"We have one major concern and that is the settlements. It's really something that is growing in importance. When and if the conference opens it will be the first problem," Mr. al-Masri said at the time.

According to political observers, Jordan is concerned that the Arab side should not be projected in any way to be the party that obstructed or impeded the convening of the conference.

But Palestinian officials say that they fear that if there was no immediate freeze on settlements Israel will buy more time to build new ones while the conference is negotiating the issues. "If this happens, Israel's view that the settlements issue is not linked to the peace process will prevail and Tel Aviv will not be under pressure to halt the settlements," said one PLO official.

According to information available to the Jordan Times, the Jordanian and the Palestinians were still engaged in talks last night concerning a common negotiating position and had not reached the details concerning the structure of the joint delegation, the PLO's role and who will speak on behalf of the delegation.

The PLO insists on an independent Palestinian representation within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and that it remained responsible for the delegation at the conference.

So the U.S. proposals for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation do not meet the PLO objectives, and therefore Jordan and the PLO are expected to be seeking a presentation of the final agreement in a way that will be acceptable to Washington.

Any agreement that will give the impression that the PLO has lost its role or that the Palestinian delegation will have no independent representation will be met with strong opposition by the Palestinian factions and even the majority of Palestinian independents at the PNC, some Palestinian analysts warn.

Two previous attempts to reach an agreement on forming a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation failed in 1983 and 1986 when the PLO insisted on independent Palestinian representation—a condition that the U.S. rejected then.

But PLO officials said that they were keen not to allow the issue to spoil Jordanian-Palestinian relations, especially as the "differences are between us and the Americans and between the Jordanians and the Palestinians." [sentence as published]

It was unclear until that night when the current talks would end but observers noted that both sides did not have too much time, especially that the other steps hinge on Jordanian-Palestinian agreement.

The PLO and Jordan have been seeking a meeting of the five front line states—Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the PLO—to coordinate the Arab position before the convening of the conference.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said Friday that this meeting will take place next week, signalling a shift in the Syrian position.

But some Arab analysts believe that the meeting cannot take place unless Jordan and the PLO resolved the issue of Palestinian representation, or else the five states might have to decide on the issue—an option that Jordan and the PLO are not likely to prefer.

The PLO delegation currently in Jordan includes Executive Committee members Mahmud Mazin, Yasir 'Abd

Rabbuh and Sulayman al-Najjab. Taking part in discussion with the team were Prime Minister al-Masri, the King's Political Advisor 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Suhaymat, Foreign Minister Abu-Jabir and Information Minister al-Sharif.

Agreement With Palestinians on Working Paper

JN0710090991 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Oct 91 pp 22, 21

["A Stand" column by Hamadah Fara'inah: "A Joint Jordanian-Palestinian Political Working Paper"]

[Text] After a series of extensive talks during the past few days, the Jordanians and Palestinians have agreed on a political working paper which more or less represents their joint stand toward participation in the proposed peace conference in a joint delegation, rather than within a merged delegation.

The working paper affirms both sides' adherence to a comprehensive political settlement based on Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and trading land for peace to guarantee full Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem. Jerusalem should be included in the conference both on the agenda and in representation. There should also be a guarantee for stopping the settlement fever on the eve of the conference, and for linking the two periods of negotiations. The transitional period should be fixed and during this period international forces should be deployed to protect the Palestinians' material, economic, and political rights. Means and opportunities should be made available for the Palestinian Arab people to practice their right to self-determination and to determine their political future on their land. The joint delegation should consist of both the Palestinian and Jordanian sides and the reference of the Palestinian delegation should be the PLO since it is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The political paper which has been agreed on adopts the contents of the Palestine National Council [PNC] resolutions since these represent the minimum reasonable grounds that could be used in light of the Arab and international political givens.

Contrary to what is being propagated, the two sides have not formed the joint delegation because this process is procedural and can be done within hours on the eve of the conference when the conference and the two sides, the Jordanians and the Palestinians, are provided with the appropriate political grounds for guaranteeing its success and for implementing the legitimate resolutions on whose basis the conference will convene.

The resolutions of the Palestinian people's parliament are not propaganda, media, and pro forma resolutions as some people like to think, especially those who exaggerate their estimate of the resolutions claiming they represent unconditional acceptance of the Bush initiative and Baker's moves, or that these resolutions are merely an accepted cover for participation in the proposed peace conference.

The resolutions of the Palestinian people's parliament are the national common denominator of all the basic political groupings which form the structure of the PNC, starting with the Fatah movement, the Palestine Liberation Front, on to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the two sides of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the communists, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, the Islamic Jihad movement, the Arab Liberation Front, and a wide range of independent figures.

We tell those who think otherwise, even among the PNC members—in other words, those who think that the PNC resolutions are the ultimate yes—that their readings are wrong and estimates are inaccurate.

The Jordanian-Palestinian agreement is a necessity and a weapon. Therefore, it will undoubtedly realize the interests and aspirations of the two fraternal people—one part which is oppressed under the occupation and clinging to the homeland, and the other part which is clinging to the future and paying the price of its choice.

Foreign Minister Buwayz Discusses U.S. Talks

PM0810132791 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Oct 91 p3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by Khalil Mater in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Matar] Could you tell us about the results of the Lebanese delegation's visit to New York?

[Buwayz] The visit to the United Nations had many objectives. A prime objective was to demonstrate Lebanon's unity of ranks and acquaint the world with what has been achieved. [passage omitted]

The main purpose was to prove the ability of the Lebanese state and the Lebanese Army to impose the state's authority and, therefore, request implementation of resolution 425.

I believe that the visit achieved a major part of its objectives. Indeed, politically, the leadership's visit left the intended impression and conveyed the required message in acquainting the world with the new situation and what has been accomplished in Lebanon.

Also at the political level, we held talks with the U.S. side on resolution 425 and the international conference.

We can say that there was full understanding between us and the American side in confirming that that resolution is separate from the question of the international conference and should be regarded as an independent, complete, and non-negotiable resolution just awaiting implementation.

On the issue of the international fund (the fund for Lebanon's reconstruction), agreement at all levels made it possible for us to issue a call, through Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, for the creation of such fund in November. It will be established in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

[Matar] What guarantees did you get for the implementation of Resolution 425?

[Buwayz] The United States confirmed its full and absolute commitment to the implementation of Resolution 425. This comes on the eve of the international conference. Its confirmation in writing by the United States in these circumstances gives it even more significance than before, particularly as some questions had, with the passage of time, arisen about the U.S. intentions, willingness, and continued commitment. After a period of doubt there are now clear and frank U.S. statements confirming that commitment.

Furthermore, there are also clear U.S. statements on recognition of Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders. That means confirmation and recognition of Lebanon's internationally recognized borders. This comes after the many questions raised during Lebanon's long war and after much talk about negotiations over these borders.

There had been some reservations about Lebanon's participation in the peace conference and the effects such participation would have on the implementation of Resolution 425. Some people had thought—mistakenly in all cases—that Lebanon's participation in such a conference would dissolve Resolution 425, and some believed that Lebanon's participation might compel Lebanon to negotiate over it. However, the understanding with the U.S. side has been very clear and the letter of guarantees the Lebanese Government will get from the United States soon, the final draft of which has already been prepared, will include a U.S. confirmation that the U.S. understanding of the implementation of Resolution 425 is separate from any other and that it would not agree to negotiations over the substance of that resolution.

[Matar] Will the written commitment you spoke of, regarding Resolution 425, be a part of the letter of guarantees?

[Buwayz] Of course. These three points I have mentioned will be a part of the letter of assurances which the U.S. Administration will address to the Lebanese Government on the eve of the conference and with the invitation to the conference.

[Matar] Let us talk about separation of Resolution 425 from the international conference in another way. What if the conferees managed to settle all other issues and the Lebanese issue remained unresolved?

[Buwayz] Lebanon, of course, would not agree to any solutions. Lebanon will participate in that conference, which will be held on the basis of Resolutions 242 and 338, first on the grounds of Arab solidarity and, second, on the grounds that it hosts a large number of Palestinian brothers on its territory and would be concerned with any solution or formula agreed upon for the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

The conference, however, will not be dealing with the occupation of Lebanese territory because that occupation occurred after Resolution 242, but that occupation is in the very essence of Resolution 425. Therefore, more than all the participating Arab states, Lebanon calls for the implementation of Resolution 242 as well as Resolution 425.

[Matar] What if they only wanted to implement Resolution 242...?

[Buwayz] Without Resolution 425? Lebanon, of course, would not accept that and would reject the results of the conference and withdraw from it.

[Matar] Has any Arab state supported you on that position?

[Buwayz] Of course. All the Arab states are fully aware of Lebanon's interests and they support Lebanon's call for an independent implementation of that resolution. [passage omitted]

[Matar] We understand that you also discussed the question of Jazzin with the Americans.

[Buwayz] The Lebanese Government has refuted all the Israeli pretexts and claims that there was no strong Lebanese central government. Now there is a strong central government in Lebanon and it has proven itself by making a number of firm, essential, and historic decisions. The Lebanese state has also refuted the Israeli claim that there was no Lebanese army capable of imposing the state's authority on all its territory. The Lebanese Army has entered the south, established security there, and remedied the abnormalities within a short period of time and with great effectiveness and minimum losses. Israel can no longer claim that the state was nonexistent or that the Lebanese Army was incapable.

That is why during the numerous meetings with the U.S. side, whether with President Bush or the rest of the U.S. team, we requested that Israel be made to withdraw immediately from Jazzin and also to withdraw the allies under its cover from the Jazzin area and open the way for the Lebanese state to take over that area. I believe that we are all working to establish a mechanism that would allow that.

[Matar] What is that mechanism?

[Buwayz] It will perhaps be similar to the mechanism used for disbanding the militias in Lebanon in terms of absorbing some people and elements and the entry of the Lebanese Army and its assuming control there.

[Matar] Is there any timetable proposed?

[Buwayz] There are strong expectations that the matter would be resolved in the coming few weeks.

[Matar] Did you get full U.S. support for such mechanism?

[Buwayz] Of course, there is great American understanding. As we have heard, the Americans have frequently raised the matter with the Israelis. I believe that the Americans are making considerable efforts in this connection. [passage omitted]

[Matar] Are you now satisfied with the way France is handling the case of General 'Awn?

[Buwayz] In the first few days after Gen. 'Awn's arrival in France some mistakes were made and Gen. 'Awn's approach deviated from what was agreed upon. However, having heard the French Interior Ministry's statements on the matter, and having in the past few days seen that what we had agreed upon was being observed, I am confident that France has no interest whatsoever in undermining its relations with Lebanon. [passage omitted]

[Matar] Is the idea of a cabinet reshuffle in the near future being contemplated?

[Buwayz] This cabinet was formed for clear specific objectives. Some of these objectives are still unfulfilled. I believe that, despite all the criticisms that could be made of this government and despite all the gaps, the coming phase must be tackled by a government of national unity and by a comprehensive government even if it included some discordant voices.

[Matar] We have heard that the Americans told you that you have to wait until a year of stability in the region had elapsed before Israeli withdrawal could be carried out.

[Buwayz] The United States has emphasized that it is committed to the implementation of Resolution 425 but would like the Lebanese state to allow a period of calm in the south to back up the U.S. request for implementation of Resolution 425 by Israel.

Israeli Pilot 'Obstacle' to Solving Crisis

NC0910112891 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] A leader of an Islamic party in Lebanon has told REUTER that the issue of an Israeli pilot missing in Lebanon constitutes a principal obstacle in solving the hostage crisis in the Middle East. He added that the fate and whereabouts of Israeli pilot Ron Arad are ambiguous, noting that the pilot does not seem to be held by the Islamic strugglers.

Israeli Casualties in South Reported

NC0810122791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] Muslim fundamentalists report that an armed group detonated a device at 0900 today under a vehicle carrying Israeli and South Lebanese Army personnel on al-Rummanah-al-Safi road, killing or wounding all of the occupants. The statement added that the Israelis brought in reinforcements, but the gunmen detonated another mine, destroying an Israeli vehicle. Security sources told our correspondent that the target was a Lebanese Army vehicle on the road between Tallat al-Rummanah and Tallat al-Radar. The sources added that one soldier was injured in the second explosion.

Lahd Positions Reinforced With Tanks, Troops

NC0910083291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] According to security reports from the south, the militiamen of agent Lahd have reinforced their positions on Tallat al-Tahir and al-Dabshah with a tank battalion. The agent militia brought new recruits and deployed them in the positions of 'Alman, Jisr al-Khardali, and 'Ali al-Tahir. Those recruits received a one-month training course in al-Majidiyah camp. Last night Israeli helicopters flew over Tyre and al-Nabatiyah while Israeli gunboats cruised off the coast from Tyre up to al-Zahrani.

Al-Shar' Briefs Council of Ministers

JN0810150891 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Damascus—The Council of Ministers held a meeting at 1100 today chaired by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' briefed the meeting on the results of the contacts and meetings he held within the framework of the UN General Assembly ordinary session in New York, and on the latest developments of the Arab and international efforts being made to convene an international peace conference. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Congratulates al-Asad, Reviews Ties

JN0610191591 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad today received a call from His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, during which his majesty congratulated the president on the anniversary of the glorious October war of liberation. The talks also dealt with bilateral issues.

Vice President Addresses Damascus Rally

JN0610202491 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1546 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Speech by Vice President Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, delivered on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, during a speech rally marking the anniversary of October 1973 war, in Damascus University Auditorium on 6 October—live]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Comrades, brother citizens: The October war of liberation constituted a phase in the Arab nation's struggle [jihad] and a turning point in its liberation struggle to protect its existence, repel the threats facing it, liberate its lands, and regain its usurped rights—at the head of which are the Palestinian Arab people's national rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their own state on their own soil. It also constituted a banner of glory and pride hoisted in the long struggle of the Arab nation with the Zionist enemy, as it confronts its aggressive policies and expansionist settlement schemes at the expense of the Arab nation, Arab land, and Arab rights.

As we celebrate this great occasion, I am pleased to convey to you and to the Arab masses sincere greetings from militant President Hafiz al-Asad [chants and applause] and a pledge from him to continue the march of struggle to achieve the objectives of October: to liberate all occupied Arab territories and regain all usurped rights.

Comrades and brothers: With its aggressive policies, expansionist settlement schemes, and objectives aimed at creating Greater Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile at the expense of the Arab nation, the Arab land, and Arab rights, Zionism constitutes the primary threat against the Arab nation and the greatest challenge which this nation must face. The Zionist enemy's practices against the masses in the occupied Arab territories, and the oppression, tyranny, and suppression which those masses are subjected to at the hands of the Zionist occupiers, confirm that Israel continues to endeavor to achieve the objectives of its aggressive and expansionist policy. It continues its aggressions with the aim of expansion and it seeks to expel the inhabitants of the occupied territories in Palestine, the Golan Heights, and South Lebanon. It also seeks to Judaize the occupied Arab territories by building settlements and bringing in Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union, Ethiopia, and Eastern Europe. Arab citizens in the occupied territories are subjected to the ugliest forms of terrorism and the harshest oppression. They are subjected to starvation, deportation, expulsion, imprisonment, detention, torture, and physical liquidation in various ways. All these acts, and others like them, show that Israel is continuing its aggressive policy and persists in its expansionist settlement scheme, at the expense of the Arab land and the Arab nation. They also show that Israel is not concerned at all about peace in the region.

In light of its position in the Arab region and its national and pan-Arab responsibilities, Syria was aware of the Zionist threat from the moment it emerged and strove to confront it with all its available resources and energies. The great sacrifices made by the Arab people in Syria, and the burdens and pains that people had to put up with to face the Zionist threat and confront the aggressive, expansionist Zionist policy, prove this. The Arab people in Syria have offered many sacrifices for the sake of Palestine before and after the disaster of 1948. There is not a single house in Syria that has not offered a martyr along the path of struggle and jihad, for the sake of Palestine. There is not a single citizen in Syria who is not in the heart of the battle or who is not concerned about it in one way or another. [passage omitted]

Since the emergence of the Zionist threat, Syria has sought to give the conflict with the Zionist enemy its pan-Arab dimension out of Syria's belief that the Arabs constitute a single nation, that the Arab homeland is a single homeland, that the Zionist danger threatens the presence and future of the entire Arab nation, and that the battle with the Zionist enemy is a pan-Arab battle on the one hand, and a battle of destiny on the other. Therefore, Syria strove to face the Zionist threat in two directions: national and pan-Arab.

On the national level, and since the emergence of the blessed Corrective Movement on 16 November 1970, which was led by militant comrade Hafiz al-Asad [applause and chants], secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Republic, Syria has endeavored to bolster the domestic front and exerted great efforts in the field of economic and cultural development. It also sought to make democracy, in terms of

conduct and application, the mark of the age through the laws and regulations that have been introduced, and the institutions that have been set up. [passage omitted]

On the pan-Arab level, Syria endeavored to bolster Arab solidarity among the Arab brothers. It sought to remove Arab contradictions and tried to concentrate the primary effort in the direction of the conflict with the Zionist enemy. Syria, under militant President Hafiz al-Asad [applause], managed to achieve great progress in its efforts to achieve the strategy of liberation. The glorious October war of liberation was one of the most important fruits of that strategy. [passage omitted]

The objectives of the glorious October war of liberation were the same objectives drawn up and specified for by the 16 November 1970 Movement, which was led by militant President Hafiz al-Asad. [applause] These objectives aimed at liberating the Arab territories occupied in 1967, and at regaining the Palestinian people's national rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent state on their soil. These objectives will remain intact until they are achieved. Struggle will continue. We will continue to fight the conflict, mobilize all energies, and expose the threats until these objectives are achieved.

Comrades, brother citizens: We are struggling now, with the support of the world community, to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region which is based on the application of the UN resolutions and which must lead to a comprehensive withdrawal by the Israeli enemy from all occupied Arab territories, and to guaranteeing the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable national rights. While Arabs work to achieve peace, and while the entire world heads toward supporting the process of establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the region, Israel continues to defy the world community, the United Nations, right, and justice. It also seeks to obstruct the convening of the peace conference, makes provocative and aggressive statements, and continues to build settlements, bring in Jewish immigrants, and strengthen its combat capabilities.

The world community, which denounced the Iraqi regime's invasion of Kuwait and supported the implementation of the UN resolutions, is now asked to support the Arabs to achieve Israel's comprehensive withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and guarantee the Palestinian Arab people's national rights in accordance with the UN resolutions. Adopting different standards to implement UN resolutions and international legitimacy cannot lead to stability and peace in the region, nor in the world.

Arabs are fighting a major political conflict. That conflict requires that they achieve the greatest level of cooperation and solidarity to win this political battle. The existing contradictions and disputes are major gains for the Zionist enemy. They must now support and back Syria and the frontline states because the Zionist danger does not threaten the frontline states alone, but also the entire Arab nation. The aim of Zionism is to establish Greater Israel from the Euphrates to the Nile, and to impose tutelage on the entire Arab region and control its political, economic, military, and cultural resources. As far as Syria is concerned, the issue of land is not subject to bargaining or abandonment, not even over a single grain of sand, regardless of how many difficulties and pains we may face.

This Syrian stand was specified by President Hafiz al-Asad [chants and applause] in the important and comprehensive interview he granted to a representative from the U.S. television network ABC on 20 September 1991, when he stressed that there can be no peace in the region without Syria and without the return of the territories occupied by Israel; and that the peace we want must be comprehensive and just, and must not leave any part of the problem without a solution, and that everyone who has a right must get that right back. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Khaliqyar Reports to Council of Ministers

LD0710234891 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Excerpt] The prime minister's press office reports that Esteemed Afghan Prime Minister Fazl Khaliqyar presided over a general session of the Council of Ministers held today. After hearing the prime minister's report on his visit to New York and participation in the 46th UN General Assembly session, along with his analysis of the country's political and military situation, discussion was held on a number of national and international issues and decisions were made.

At the beginning of the high session of ministers, Esteemed Fazl Khaliqyar, prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, spoke on the results of his recent visit to New York and his talks with his excellency the UN secretary general; president of the UN General Assembly; some heads of states and governments; heads of delegations participating in the 46th UN General Assembly session; and state, political, and social personalities of Turkey, Switzerland, Germany, and the Soviet Union, on their interest in the Afghan problem and on his meeting with Afghans living in those countries. He noted the ongoing and harmonious developments for reaching a political solution to the Afghan problem, within the UN general secretary's five-point plan and complying with the peace-loving policy of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Esteemed Khaliqyar also informed the high session of ministers on talks conducted on the Republic of Afghanistan's support of the joint U.S.-USSR communique on the cessation of weapons supply to warring sides and Afghanistan's demand for similar action by other countries.

Esteemed Khaliqyar expressed pleasure about his meetings with His Excellency USSR Prime Minister Silayev and His Excellency RSFSR Vice President Rutskoy, and said: Talks were conducted unambiguously on related developments for solving the Afghan problem, the two sides' stands on various international issues, the strengthening of friendly relations, and the continuation of economic, cultural, and technical cooperation for 1991 and 1992. Both countries have similar stands on continuing mutual economic, technical, and cultural cooperation.

His Excellency USSR Prime Minister Silayev reassured the prime minister that despite the Soviet Union's existing problems, his country will continue its economic, technical, and cultural aid to the Republic of Afghanistan in line with the signed agreements, and immediate measures will be taken to supply the Afghans with oil material and primary goods. The esteemed prime minister added that according to the understanding of the Afghanistan and USSR heads of governments, a joint commission on economic and technical cooperation will meet in Kabul, either at the end of October or the beginning of November of the current Christian year, which corresponds with the month of Aqrab 1370.

The esteemed prime minister spoke to the high session of ministers on the effectiveness of his talks with Uzbek Vice President Mirsaidov in Tashkent regarding the interest in, and desire for, mutual economic, technical, and cultural cooperation of Uzbekistan with the Republic of Afghanistan. He considered the prospect of cooperation in the interest of the two countries. The recent visit of a high ranking delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan has had special impact on the presentation of the peace-loving and principled stance of the Republic of Afghanistan as regards changes in the country and international developments, and its results have helped to unify international opinion on the political solution of the Afghan problem.

Later, in his remarks on Afghanistan's political and military situation, the esteemed prime minister of Afghanistan explained to the cabinet members the social and economic situation. [passage omitted]

Islamabad Reports Clashes in Gardeyz, Lowgar

BK0910082691 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] In Afghanistan, clashes between mojahedin and Kabul regime troops are reported from different parts of Gardeyz Province. According to reports, the mojahedin have inflicted heavy losses on Kabul regime forces and captured two security posts and two military (?trucks). The mojahedin also advanced from the southern front and captured two military bases and four security posts. In Lowgar Province, mojahedin also attacked security posts of the Kabul regime and set ablaze an ammunition dump.

Bangladesh

Ruling Party Nominee Wins Presidential Election

BK0810162491 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] nominee, former speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas, has been elected president of the country. Out of 264 votes cast, Mr. Abdur Rahman Biswas got 172, and his rival Awami League nominee, former chief justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury, 92 votes. All the votes were found valid. The chief election commissioner, Justice Mohammad Abdur Rauf, announced the results after counting of votes in the election held at the Sangsad Bhavan [Parliament House] this afternoon.

Earlier, polling was held between 1400 and 1700. BNP and Awami League members of parliament cast their votes. The lone member of Ganotantrik Party and two independent MP's [member of parliament] also took part in the election. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was first to cast her vote. After the BNP members ended casting of their votes, Awami League members led by Sheikh Hasina entered the house at 1535 to participate in the voting. BNP MP Azizul Haq, who is seriously ill, came on a wheelchair to exercise the right of his vote. Jatiya Party, Jamaat-i Islami, CPB [Communist Party of Bangladesh], Workers Party, NDP [National Democratic Party], JSD [Jatiya Samajtantarik

Dal]-Siraj, Islami Oikya [United] Party, and NAP [National Awami Party] MP's abstained from voting. The chief election commissioner conducted the election.

Our representative says the transition to the parliamentary form of government is complete with the holding of election to the office of the president today. The holding of the election was uncertain till yesterday because of a writ petition by some opposition members praying for a stay of the poll. The single-member vacation bench of the high court division of the Supreme Court in its judgment yesterday evening rejected the prayer for stay of the presidential election.

India

Solanki: No U.S. Pressure To Sign Nuclear Pact

BK0610091391 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Madahsinh Solanki, says there is no pressure from the United States on India to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. He, however, said that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker told him during their meeting in New York that it will be good for India to sign the treaty, when France and China have expressed their willingness to sign it. Mr. Solanki said India's decision not to sign the treaty is independent, as it believes that the treaty tends to divide the world between the nuclear haves and havenots. He said unless there is equality among the signatories, there is no point in insisting on the treaty. Mr. Solanki reaffirmed that India is against the piling up of nuclear weapons and advocates their destruction. Mr. Solanki was speaking to newsmen at Delhi airport soon after his return from a two-week tour of Germany, Britain, Canada, and the United States.

The minister said his talks with Mr. Baker covered bilateral matters and India's present state of relations with Pakistan, particularly on the Kashmir issue. Mr. Solanki said that he explained to Mr. Baker that despite repeated talks to have the matter resolved bilaterally, Islamabad continues to support subversive elements in Kashmir and Punjab. During their talks, he said, he also explained the new economic policy adopted by India and the new climate of investment by American and multinational companies.

Describing his visit as successful, Mr. Solanki said he had discussions with the foreign ministers of the permanent members of the Security Council and foreign ministers of nonaligned countries, besides meeting the ministers of G-15 and G-77 countries and the UN secretary general.

Soviet Response to Bush Proposals Welcomed

BK0810145491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] New Delhi has welcomed the comprehensive Soviet response to the U.S. announcement on reduction of nuclear arsenal. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman expressed the hope that the one-year Soviet moratorium on nuclear testing will be reciprocated by all other nuclear-weapon states and facilitate negotiations for a comprehensive test ban treaty. He said the set of measures and proposals announced by both the United States and the Soviet Union can almost accomplish the first stage of the Indian action plan for ushering in a nuclear-free world. This, he said, is a matter of some satisfaction for India.

Romanian Charge d'Affaires Kidnapped in Delhi

BK0910075091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 9 Oct 91

[Text] The Romanian counselor charge d'affaires to India, Mr. Liviu Radu, was kidnapped in New Delhi this morning. The abduction took place when the counselor was leaving his residence for the embassy. An external affairs spokesman described the incident as most unfortunate and said that everything possible is being done to trace Mr. Liviu Radu and nab the culprits.

Venkataraman Meets Cambodia's Hun Sen

BK0510093491 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] The Cambodian prime minister, Mr. Hun Sen, called on the president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, in New Delhi today. The agreement to be signed in Paris at the end of this month was discussed. Mr. Hun Sen thanked India for the help given to his country in arriving at a solution. During the half-hour meeting, the Cambodian prime minister apprised Mr. Venkataraman of the positive developments in his country during the last year. Mr. Venkataraman assured Mr. Hun Sen of India's continued support to Cambodia.

The minister for human resource development, Mr. Arjun Singh, met the Cambodian prime minister. Matters of mutual interest figured in the discussion.

Mr. Hun Sen also called on Mrs. Sonia Gandhi.

The Cambodian prime minister is now on a three-day visit to India.

Over 3,000 Homeguards Arrested in Bihar

BK0710044291 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] In Bihar, over 3,000 homeguards were reportedly arrested yesterday after their alleged exploiting in the chief minister's directive to call off the strike. The jawans [soldiers] were staging a dharna [sit-in strike] near the secretariat in Patna since Thursday. They were demanding their absorption into government service.

Iran

Judiciary Confirms U.S. Engineer Released

LD0810120191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Text] The judicial branch has confirmed the release of the American engineer John Pattis. The public relations office

of the judicial branch announced that Pattis was released after completing five years of imprisonment and after following legal procedures, the same as other convicts. He was a member of the earth science engineering team from the Tepsta company and worked in Iran's satellite station at Asadabad, near Hamadan. He was imprisoned five years ago on charges of espionage.

Arrest of Visiting French Film Crew Denied

LD0710131191 Tehran IRNA in English 1039 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 7, IRNA—The organizers of the 17th Tehran International Trade Fair Monday categorically denied a report on the alleged arrest of a group of film-makers of the French Channel-1 television. The export promotion center refuted a report by the French news ageny (AFP) on the detention of the said film-makers at the fair campus Sunday.

An official of the center told IRNA that while the French film-makers were taking films from one of the pavilions, "the law enforcement forces approached them and very politely asked them some brief questions and left them alone immediately after receiving the answers."

"The arrest or detention of the group of the French film-makers is totally baseless. The security personnel of the fair have constant cooperation especially with foreign reporters through whom news of the massive participation of 49 countries at the 17th fair is transmitted throughout the world," the official stressed.

Stronger Diplomacy Urged To Preserve Interests

LD0610110391 Tehran IRNA in English 0921 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 6, IRNA—A Tehran daily Sunday said Iran can act with more maneuvering power in her diplomacy and called for creating circumstances to preserve the country's vital interests.

An editorial in the English-language daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' said, "Big powers led by the United States are after creating conditions whereby to put various pressures on the Islamic Republic of Iran to compel her to retreat from the uncompromising principles of her foreign policy."

It believed that the explicit remarks made by leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i on the issue of Palestine and the so-called international peace conference, as well as the remarks made by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati at the U.N. General Assembly on the question of Palestine are among the "major issues prompting the concern and wrath of the big powers, particulaly the U.S."

"Experience has shown that governments such as Britain, Germany and Italy have on various occasions preferred their foreign policy principles to economic interests," the paper stressed and cited the case of Germany abandoning the Bushehr nuclear project of Iran and its barring of Iranian publishers from taking part at the Frankfurt book exhibition "only to submit to the demand of the U.S. and the Zionists."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran in dealing with such issues should employ effective means and take more active stances," said the paper and warned, "true that for the cause of economic development, cooperation with advanced countries such as Germany is essential, yet the international situation is such that replacements are also possible."

Musavi-Ardabili Friday Prayers First Sermon

LD0410155591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1127 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Friday prayers first sermon by Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili in Tehran on 4 October—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] You, as the creatures of God, must be pious and virtuous; you should live by the principles of virtue and simplicity. Your tongues, your pens, your deeds, your limbs, your thoughts, and your body and soul must all let themselves be guided by piety. That is where the path of salvation, the path of attaining human perfection, and path of God's satisfaction and blessing can be seen.

Today too the topic of my first sermon will be remarks on spirituality in the life of human beings. This tangible world in which we live and where we encounter problems, feel them, has two faces, two currents and, so to speak, two dimensions—material and spiritual. [passage omitted]

It is evident that spirituality has actual application as well as it has a presence of 50 percent and 60 percent dimension in human life. It is not something that one can totally leave it aside in one's life in an effort to go after materialism. [passage omitted]

Following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, there are some who want to draw the conclusion that the fall of the Soviet Union underlined the victory of technology over ideology. They want to say forget ideology, power of thought, philosophy, and so on; today it is a unipolar world and America, armed with technology, is at the top of the pyramid and so the power of these issues has become evident. Such people leave aside the ideological school: they place spirituality and materialism on the same scale.

What is it that has fallen to pieces? Is it the materialist ideology or spiritual ideology? The issue is very clear. During the past few years we have seen two miracles—miracles of history that may well happen once in 1,000 years. One was the victory of Iran—the glorious revolution of Iran and the endurance of Iranians—over the world during the imposed war. This was one miracle. The other miracle was the falling apart of the Communist camp. After 70 years it fell apart though nothing hit it; it broke into pieces at the stroke of a mere wind. It is evident that from the point of view of ideology we cannot roll the two

ideologies Islamic and into one and then put that combination against technology. The one that was broken into pieces was different—it was a materialistic ideology. The one which has been victorious is universal spirituality. We say technology can overcome a materialistic ideology while a spiritual ideology can triumph over technology. We have seen this fact during the past two or three years with our own eyes. [passage omitted]

Commander on Revolution Guards Special Unit

LD0510203791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0740 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Excerpts] The special unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards is one of the country's most active and efficient units of the law-enforcement forces. These units have the mission of providing operational and logistical support to other units of the force.

In addition, these units are charged with providing security for sensitive locations and maintaining security for the lives of top-level domestic and foreign personalities. Among their other duties is to confront all symptoms of corruption and prostitution in society.

In this program we intend to familiarize you with the duties and performance of the special unit of the Greater Tehran Guards [pasdaran-e tehran-e bozorg]. The program's correspondent interviewed the commander of this unit. The first part of the interview is ready.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We are with Brother Saleh, the honorable commander of the Special Unit of the Islamic Revolution Guards in greater Tehran. I thank you for giving us your time. Please introduce the unit to our listening friends.

[Saleh] In the name of God. [passage omitted] I must say that under the new organization of the law-enforcement forces, on the orders of the leader, it has been decided that a part and a role within the organization must be assigned to the Guards of the former Islamic Revolution Committee. Currently that part has been incorporated in the organization of the law-enforcement force. Now the brothers are busy serving under specific duties and a new job description. [passage omitted]

The main duty of the Guards Special Unit is to provide reinforcement and other forms of operational support for law-enforcement units in the region with the aim of decisive and strong combat against any kind of sabotage, terrorism,, and any kind of hostile action that the agents of global arrogance may mount in an effort to weaken the sacred Islamic regime or to disrupt the security and order of society. This is the main duty of the Guards units all over the country. If you like I can talk about other duties as well.

[Correspondent] Please.

[Saleh] Another duty that the Guards units have, including the Guards unit of greater Tehran, which functions under the direct supervision of the honorable commander of the region, Sardar Ozha'i, is that of providing security for sensitive locations and security for the lives of domestic and foreign personalities as well as providing security for legally sanctioned assemblies and gatherings. The reverse is also true; to prevent formation of any kind of illegal and unauthorized assemblies or turmoil or formations. This duty is performed under the direct orders of the honorable commander of the region. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Turkish Army Allegedly Killed Iranian Kurds

NC0710163991 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 6 Oct 91

[Excerpts] Dear listeners: On Wednesday 4 September, we broadcast a report on the Kurdish program of the Voice of Iranian Kordestan [VOIK] and informed the combatant Kurdish people that eight peshmerga from the Democratic Party of Iranian Kordestan [DPIK], who had been carrying out their duties at one of the customs offices near the three borders of Iranian Kordestan, Iraq, and Turkey, disappeared when the Turkish Army attacked part of the territory of Iraqi Kurdistan in the month beginning 23 July. We now must state with great regret that—even though these comrades' bodies have not been found, and we still do not know exactly where their martyrdom took place—reports and existing evidence have nevertheless indicated that eight co-combatants were martyred during the Turkish Army's attack. Naturally, we hold the Turkish Government responsible for this incident and for the martyrdom of these comrades.

The names of our martyred co-combatants are as follows:

1. Martyr Molla Mohammad Amin Khezeri. [passage omitted]
2. Martyr Mostafa Daneshmand alias Mostafa Tayefeh. [passage omitted]
3. Martyr Ebrahim (Zarza). [passage omitted]
4. Martyr Mostafa (Bayazidi). [passage omitted]
5. Martyr Yunes Belvasi. [passage omitted]
6. Martyr 'Abdollah Salimi. [passage omitted]
7. Martyr 'Eynollah Khaleqi alias (Khavat). [passage omitted]
8. Martyr Vahed (Deze'i). [passage omitted]

As we said at the beginning of this report, our eight co-combatants were martyred when the Turkish Army attacked part of Iraqi Kurdistan territory at the party's border customs headquarters. Our party holds the Turkish Government responsible for this shocking incident. [passage omitted]

Undoubtedly, the unjustly shed blood of these martyrs will turn into a raging fire. This will give all the freedom fighters new warmth and strength and will become a torch which will light the way along the path of struggle. [passage omitted]

Afghan Opposition Group Unity Urged

LD0510221291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1939 GMT 5 Oct 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Political efforts for resolving the Afghan problem are apparently once again facing an unclear perspective with the new Soviet proposal and its immediate rejection by some leaders of the Afghan mojahedin's Islamic parties. This issue is significant, concerning the existing stalemate in military confrontations, mooting this serious question: eventually what can be the rational solution acceptable to the domestic, regional, and international parties involved in the Afghanistan problem? Some of the observers have evaluated the new Soviet plan as a step forward, since for the first time there did not exist any role for Najibollah in it. But quick rejection of it by the leaders of some radical groups of the Afghan mojahedin, while conveying the complication in the Afghanistan problem, also confirms this view that lack of agreement among the Afghan mojahedin will create a problem in finding any political solution.

In connection with the future of Afghanistan, the rift among the mojahedin is very important and crucial for it will give an opportunity to the international parties involved with the Afghanistan problem to impose their desired political settlement under the conditions when there does not exist a general consensus. It is imagined that the American and the Soviet Union [as heard], due to some special reasons, are inclined to politically resolve the problem of Afghanistan. U.S. President George Bush is completing the last year of his term in office and presidential elections will be held in the United States in 1992. The Republican Party, in order to dominate its Democratic rivals over another term, needs to gain victory on the international scene. The problems of Afghanistan and the Middle East peace conference are the trump card of Mr. Bush in the presidential elections and in the event of a breakthrough in them, his prospect of victory in the polls will increase.

Due to certain reasons, the Middle East peace conference does not have bright prospects and it appears that it needs further efforts and greater time. On this very ground a political solution in Afghanistan can be evaluated more positive in Washington. This issue can be significant also in this respect that the Soviet Union has capacity, as an international to the Afghanistan problem, is willing to cooperate with America more than at any other time. The point that the Soviet Union in its proposed plan has gone to the extent of eliminating Najibollah and forming a provisional government headed by Mr. Mojahedin, or Zaher Shah, can now be conceivable in the absence of joint inclination of America and the Soviet Union to settle the problem of Afghanistan. It is probable that this unexpected Soviet move may increase the misunderstanding within the political wing of the mojahedin leadership that the Soviet Union, under the current [word indistinct] conditions domestically, will be willing to grant further concessions to the extent of eventually eliminating the Kabul regime and accepting an Islamic government desired by the mojahedin.

But it appears that such an analysis of the prevalent conditions may not be compatible with the global reality. In international terms, the future government in Afghanistan is not viewed within the monopolistic framework of the Islamic (?rink), having a vast and considerably contradictory form of the desired form of government. [as heard] Rather it is a sort of agreement among various ideological factions [words indistinct] were in the the present government, and nationalistic thinking, leading to Zaher Shah and the mojahedin, may conduct election in a sort of mutually agreement (?cooperation) and under the UN supervision in order to allow the formation of the desired government in line with the conditions prevalent in Afghanistan. [sentence as heard] It appears that international and regional inclination is becoming dominant to a certain extent and some of the more realistic factions and groups among the mojahedin are showing themselves to be more prepared for coordination with those conditions. But radical groups continue to insist on a military solution. This is the reason the mojahedin's power to attain a political or military solution has been reduced and the settlement of the Afghanistan problem has been delayed so far. If the mojahedin fail to act unitedly at this sensitive juncture, the possibility of an international compromise to their detriment cannot be far from expectation.

Pakistan

Minister Kanjoo Returns From New York

BK0710092891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] The minister of state for foreign affairs, Mr. Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo, has said there is now greater awareness among the international community of the gravity of situation in occupied Kashmir, and appreciation of the Pakistani stand on a comprehensive political settlement in Afghanistan. The world community is showing serious interest and support to prime minister's proposal for keeping South Asia free of nuclear weapons. He said this while addressing a news conference in Islamabad today on his return home after attending the UN General Assembly session in New York where he also met a large number of foreign ministers as well as the UN secretary general and presidents of the General Assembly and the Security Council. During these meetings, he briefed them on issues of concern to Pakistan, particularly the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Asked about the president's visit to Saudi Arabia, he said the two countries have best of relations. Pakistan cherished the bonds of friendship with Saudi Arabia and he went to take them into confidence about happenings in the region.

Talks With Indian Minister, Baker

BK0710160891 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 7 Oct 91

[Text] Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo, the minister of state for foreign affairs, has called for concrete steps by India to end human rights violations in Kashmir and to settle the Kashmir issue peacefully. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said the international community is now fully aware of the gravity of the situation in occupied Kashmir and is taking a keen interest in Pakistan's proposal for keeping South Asia free of nuclear weapons.

The minister said he held detailed discussions with Indian External Affairs Minister Solanki on the question of Jammu and Kashmir. During this meeting, he reiterated the prime minister's desire to establish good-neighborly relations with India, for which an early settlement of the Kashmir dispute is necessary. Kanjoo said the Indian external affairs minister agreed with him that the pace of bilateral negotiations needs to be accelerated.

The minister said he held talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in a friendly atmosphere covering many issues, especially Kashmir and Afghanistan. James Baker expressed hope that the issues will be resolved peacefully. The secretary of state added that his government supports Pakistan's proposal for a five-nation conference on establishing a nuclear-free zone in South Asia.

Mohammad Siddique Kanjoo also said he apprised the Chinese foreign minister of the situation in Afghanistan and Kashmir. He also met with UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar and assured him of Pakistan's full support for, and cooperation in, his efforts toward a political settlement of the Afghan problem.

Federal Security Council Constituted

BK0810074691 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Oct 91 p 12

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 7—A high level body to be called Federal Security Council [FSC] has been constituted to take care of all aspects of national security.

Highly placed sources told THE MUSLIM that the composition and objectives of the Federal Security Council are somewhat similar to that of the oft-repeated idea of the National Security Council.

The Council will be headed by the Prime Minister, who will be its chairman. Its members include ministers for Interior, Defence, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Secretary Interior, Director of State for Foreign Affairs, Director General Intelligence Bureau and Director General Inter-Services Intelligence [DG, ISI]. It may be mentioned that the three services chiefs and Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee were supposed to be members of the National Security Council, but in its amended version, the Federal Security Council includes DG, ISI as a member from the defence forces.

The sources said that the proposal for setting up of FSC was already there but its immediate formation has been necessitated because of the fresh wave of violence in the country which called for an urgent need to have such a body to coordinate security related activities in the country.

Two more bodies have also been formed to assist the Federal Security Council in dealing with security related problems.

Bhutto Pledges Support for New Political Alliance

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[Text] Benazir Bhutto, opposition leader in the National Assembly, emphasized a political solution of the problems facing the country while talking to newsmen in Karachi today. Welcoming reports of the formation of a new political alliance, she said the People's Democratic Alliance will cooperate with it. Bhutto criticized the economic policies of the present government and condemned the bombings in Karachi and Hyderabad.

Official Notes Soviet Position on Najibollah

BK0410115091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1000 GMT 4 Oct 91

[Text] Akram Zaki, the secretary general of foreign affairs, has said that the Soviet Union appears to have dropped its insistence that Najibollah be included in the interim administration that will organize free elections in Afghanistan. Addressing a gathering of students and academicians at Columbia University, he optimistically said: We have come close to a breakthrough on the Afghan question. It may be recalled that the Afghan peace plan announced by the UN secretary general calls for a cease-fire and the establishment of an interim administration in Afghanistan, which can hold elections according to Afghan traditions.

Sri Lanka

Opposition Submits No-Confidence Motion

BK0810163891 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 8 Oct 91

[Excerpt] In Sri Lanka, the opposition parties have submitted a no-confidence motion against the speaker, Mr. M.H. Mohammed, over his decision to reject the impeachment motion against President Premadasa. The notice was submitted this evening by the leader of opposition, Mrs. Bandaranaike, on behalf of SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party], Mahajana Eksath Peramuna, United Socialist Alliance, Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front, Nava Sama Samaja Party, and Lanka Sama Samaja Party. The speaker's decision came in the wake of allegations that some of the signatures on the motion were forged. [passage omitted]